



FLAGSTAFF | TEMPE | TUCSON

September 23, 2024

**DRAFT- MEETING MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

- Motion to approve August 26, 2024 meeting minutes as written. (Jim Snitzer, Deborah Bateman, Motion Passed.)
- Motion to hold a second online poll for the AHS Board to approve recommendations by the Outreach Committee for FY25 CHI grants. (Deborah Bateman, Kelley Corsette, Motion Passed.)

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Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order by Vice President, DeNise Bauer, at 12:03 PM**
2. **Roll Call – Secretary Deborah Bateman**
 - a. **Present-** DeNise Bauer, Deborah Bateman, Jim Snitzer, Desirae Barquin, Kelley Corsette
 - b. **Absent-** Linda Elliot-Nelson, Linda Whitaker, Robert Ballard, Bruce Gwynn
 - c. **Staff-** Vincent Bradley, Melba Davis, Jace Dostal, David Breeckner, KD Forgia, Rebekah Tabah
3. **Minutes** - Discussion and action, if any, to approve the draft minutes of the [August 26, 2024 Executive Committee meeting](#): (Jim Snitzer, Deborah Bateman, Motion Passed.)
4. **Call to the Public** – DeNise Bauer
 - a. No members of the public present.
5. **Agenda Item** – Update on transfer of Sanguinetti House & Gardens, Mellon Building and Molina Block –David Breeckner
 - a. Transfer to City of Yuma completed on Saturday, 9/14/24, exactly 52 years after the original transfer to AHS of SHM and Mellon House.
 - AHS Facilities have closed out all outstanding repair projects and invoices, and worked with the City of Yuma to transfer any current warranties.
 - b. AHS' collections loan agreement with YCHS is still outstanding, but pending.
 - Deborah Bateman asked about the status of the loan agreement; David Breeckner answered that the current loan agreement expired on 9/14/24. AHS is waiting on YCHS to return the provided loan agreement to continue the loan past the 9/14 date. AHS met with Bruce Gwynn and Amanda Dahl on 9/16 to discuss their signing and Bruce promised it was forthcoming.
 - Deborah Bateman asked if there was any reason for the delay in signing, and the consequences for not signing. David Breeckner answered that YCHS is challenging AHS' ownership of items within its Yuma collections, but Bruce had said it would not impact YCHS' ability to sign. The loan

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agreement to be signed mirrors the one previously signed by YCHS in February 2024. AHS can recall its loaned materials in the absence of an agreement, but hopes to resolve the signing with YCHS before needing to consider that or other options.

- Deborah Bateman asked about stakeholder relations in Yuma and the impact of the current loan agreement on them. David Breeckner answered that current conversations surround the ongoing dispute of ownership of AHS' collections. YCHS has requested copies of all of AHS' donation records for Yuma materials (162 years); AHS has tried to separate these legal conversations from AHS' loan of materials to YCHS, to ensure continuity of current displays at SHM.
- Deborah Bateman noted parallels between talks in Yuma with talks in Flagstaff, and to be proactive to avoid impacts to the agency's reputation. Kelly Corsette recommended clear communication in the agency's approach, top-level goals, budget constraints, etc to demonstrate a willingness to work with local groups.
- Deborah and Kelly asked David Breeckner to provide the Board with sample text summarizing the agency's current efforts and community positions. Jace Dostal and the AHS Collections team are currently working to update its Collections FAQ as part of this effort.

6. Agenda Item- Update on Flagstaff Discussion Group – Kelly Corsette

- a. Stakeholder interviews have been completed. Next step is a joint discussion with the Coconino County Discussion Team.

7. Agenda Item- Outreach Committee – David Breeckner

- a. The online vote held in September for CHI grants failed due to a lack of responses.

b. Action Item to hold a second online poll for the AHS Board to approve recommendations by the Outreach Committee for FY25 CHI grants. (Deborah Bateman, Kelly Corsette, Motion Passed.)

8. Agenda Item – Nominations Committee – Desirae Barquin

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- a. One candidate has been confirmed for the slate of AHS State Board Officers (Vice President). A request for volunteers and nominations was expressed.
- b. Opening for nominations include President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

9. Agenda Item- Finance Committee – David Breeckner, Vince Bradley

- a. Friends of AHS is exploring development of a website to facilitate new donations.
- b. There is an opportunity for new membership on the Friends of AHS Board for any interested parties.
- c. Vince is working on a “Donor FAQ” education guide to facilitate new types of donations (e.g. stocks, estate gifts).
- d. Finance Committee did not meet in September, awaiting new reports and completion of current projects.
- e. FY26 budget was successfully submitted in September; determinations won't be shared until spring 2025.
 - Operating Budget submitted as approved in July.
 - **\$914,800** in new Funding Issues submitted for additional consideration.
 - Funding Issues included requested monies to reopen and staff Pioneer Museum, additional funds for CHI grants, and to purchase essential software to support Collections & Archives
 - Deborah Bateman asked what efforts AHS has planned to advocate for these funding issues, recognizing the urgent need. David Breeckner answered that the agency has already developed a Legislative Outreach one-sheet, which it can amend to fit this year's funding requests. Its dissemination and positive receipt by stakeholders will require support by the Board and its regional partners.
 - Deborah Bateman requested a document or shareable presentation with key talking points, as well as a list of key Legislators and stakeholders to target. She suggested a written plan that could be followed and checked off to mark progress toward the goal.
 - Deborah Bateman asked about the status of new Board appointments, recognizing the need for new persons and the current stymie otherwise faced by current members. David Breeckner answered that he has an upcoming meeting with the head of Boards & Commissions to discuss this need; there is no current movement on new appointments, but all currently-expired but sitting Board members continue to maintain their seats in a holdover status.
 - Vince Bradley recognized the skills and relationships uniquely held by the AHS Board, and the immaterial support they can

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provide in development efforts.

- Kelly Corsette asked about the timeline for outreach on AHS' budget. David Breeckner answered that the agency should refine its materials and develop an outreach strategy schedule by January 2025, to align with the release of the Governor's draft budget and start of the new Legislative session.
 - David Breeckner suggested this next move to the Outreach Committee for discussion during their October meeting. Kaydi Forgia shared the registration link for the meeting in the Zoom chat.
- AHS has received follow-up inquiries from OSPB for additional details that are due 9/30/24.
 - [Link to AHS website and FY26 budget provided in the chat.](#)
 - Conversation about State Board involvement in making AHS more visible to the general public and state legislative body.

10. Agenda Item – Annual Meeting Update – Vince Bradley

- a. Friday, 10/18/24 at the Arizona Heritage Center
 - 10am-11am – State Board meeting (tentative timeline)
 - 11:15am-12:45pm – Annual Meeting presentation, to include Officer elections, Al Merito awards, and a featured speaker.
 - 12:45pm-3pm – Annual Meeting reception & CHI tabling event

11. Agenda Item- Director's Report – David Breeckner

- a. Time Capsule Foundation update
 - A draft MOU and draft Contract have been prepared and are being considered with TCF as well as AHS' legal counsel and ADOA's risk management.
 - The MOU covers the partnership between AHS and TCF up to the completion of fundraising for the proposed time capsule by no later than 12/31/25; the contract covers the construction, installation, and ensuing 75-year loan and display period.
 - David Breeckner shared on-screen a copy of the draft MOU for the Board's review and answered questions.
- b. Hiring updates
 - CFO position has been filled by David Nagelski.
 - Tucson Archivist, Ella Breed, has been selected and will be onboarded the week of October 1, 2024.
 - (2) Education positions posted; Interviews are in process
 - Vacant LACEE positions to be posted soon

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- Communications Specialist position posted; Interviews are being scheduled
 - AHS HR is working with ADOA to post Skill Bridge positions; this is a military-funded, paid 6-month program that supports the transition of active-service members.
- c. WMA conference: 9/25 - 9/28
- [Link to WMA conference sessions shared in chat.](#)
 - A variety of staff from different AHS departments will be attending the annual conference in Tucson.

12. Announcements and considerations in future board or committee meetings.

- a. No announcements

13. Adjournment- 1:02 PM

Arizona Historical Society State Board
of Directors DeNise Bauer, Board
Vice-President

DATE: October 5, 2024

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings

Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise. Please use the following link as a hyperlink to solicit online registrations. It has been set up to work (individually) for all Executive Committee meetings in 2024.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc-2hqDIsG9QarPDKi819C7uUohXboP9Q>

All meetings are hosted and live-streamed via Zoom.

September 23, 2024; October 28, 2024; November 25, 2024; December 30, 2024 (to be discussed)

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-2opj4qHNEcUWuowtZ2nJI5HaZEciYX>

All meetings are hosted are live-streamed via Zoom. October 18, 2024; December 6, 2024

Arizona Historical Society

Linda Elliott-Nelson, Board President