

**Meeting Minutes of the
Executive Committee of the
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society**

November 25, 2024

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

Minutes

Present: Kelly Corsette, Robert Ballard, DeNise Bauer, Bruce Gwynn, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, Desirae Barquin

Absent: Jim Snitzer

Staff: Dr. David Breeckner, Melba Davis, Jace Dostal, Vanessa Fajardo, Vince Bradley, Sebastian Alt, Dr. Rebekah Tabah

1. Call to Order- Kelly Corsette called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
2. Roll Call- Linda Elliott-Nelson
3. Minutes - Minutes of October 28, 2024 and November 14, 2024, The minutes were approved. (Robert Ballard, DeNise Bauer)
4. Call to the Public – no response
5. Agenda Item-
 - a. Current Chapter Policies- See: Part II. Chapters Policy #5 Title: Chapters Adopted: 1-28-2022 Reviewed: 5-2022 Updated: 7-29-2022 David Breeckner mentioned that there are a number of chapter seats that are vacant on the Arizona Historical Society Board. He added that if there are any statutory changes that it would be difficult. AHS is still limited to appointees serving for one year instead of a full term given the current situation with Boards and Commissions and given the situation with the state. David added that the statute allows AHS to do fundraising. Linda Elliott-Nelson asked if any other chapters besides the Rio Colorado Chapter currently meet. Kelly Corsette said that he believes the other chapters do not meet and said that we would like to see the chapters active again. Kelly noted that we could ask the chapters to ask for individuals to represent them on the AHS Board. He noted that the quickest path would be where the state board could fill the role of those chapter representatives missing, and the charters could be adjusted where the chapters would only need to meet once a year. He would like the Governance Committee to look at this and make a recommendation. David mentioned that the statute is very limited in that each chapter is geographically assigned and there is a board

position for each chapter. There is also an option for chapters to be reconstituted. The Governance Committee could look at the structure of the chapters and see if there are other groups who could be viewed as chapters. David added that the removal of the 1107 funds from the chapters done after the Sunset Review of 2013 affected much of the energy left the chapters. He noted that the chapters could serve as a venue to engage stakeholders. Kelly agreed on the 1107 fund situation and that the chapters could be seen as local supporters and added that the key issue focused on people being involved. For now, Kelly said that we should focus on the short-term situation, which is how to handle appointments. He will ask the Governance Committee to review this. Kelly asked how soon we would need to know about chapter board representatives. David answered that at present there are only two vacant board positions that represent chapters. Robert Ballard noted that it looks like we need chapter leadership from the chapters who have not been meeting. In Mohave, Robert said they consider themselves to be an active chapter. He added that Bullhead City appears to be very active and asked David if there were other candidates for the board. David said yes, he is reaching out, but the individuals he is contacting are not chapter representatives. Robert added that it is a shame to ask someone to serve when in the current situation, they can only serve one year and cannot serve again. David noted that the definition of chapter is very open as a designated historical organization and asked if other organizations could be seen as a chapter as long as they could be seen in certain geographic locations. Kelly reiterated that he could not see any policies that needed to change regarding chapters. He added that the most immediate question had to do with missing chapter representatives that could serve on the AHS board. Kelly reiterated that he would have the Governance Committee work on a recommendation for chapters. Kelly is also the current chair of the Governance Committee.

6. Agenda Item- Inclusion of Committee Chairs in future Executive Committee meetings. Kelly said that he would like the Committee Chairs to comprise part of the Executive Committee. Robert Ballard said that this makes sense. Linda Elliott-Nelson said that she agreed with Robert and that Sherry Rampy is the chair of the Community Outreach Committee. Rebekah Tabah added that Greg Scott is the chair of the Library, Archives and Collections Committee. Kelly made notes and said that he will work on contacting these committee chairs. David said that the previous president preferred the Committee reports to occur during the Executive Committee meeting instead of the full state Board Meeting. Kelly said that he would think about this and asked anyone for input on this. Robert said that as a matter of time, a highlight could be provided at the full state board meetings instead of the full report. Kelly concurred and said that since the full state board meetings are long, a highlight on committees might be advisable. Rebekah noted that since the overall number of board members is low, requiring Committee Chairs to serve on the Executive Committee would be difficult. Kelly

noted that everyone's time is busy. Desirae Barquin wrote in chat that in her experience, committee reports do not generally happen in Executive Committee meetings. Kelly noted that we are currently in a unique situation since the full board is around 50% of the full positions filled. Kelly added that anyone can reach out to him directly if they have any questions or information.

7. Agenda Item- Fall & winter holiday schedule – David Breeckner advised that AHS facilities will be closed to the public on the following days this holiday season. Staff will have the opportunity to use this time to use their accumulated leave, or continue work in-office. All State offices are closed on 11/28, 12/25, and 1/1.

- Thanksgiving – Thursday, 11/28 - Monday, 12/2
- Winter Holiday – Saturday, 12/21 - Monday, 1/6 (closure of public museums, staff will still be working)

8. Agenda Item- Director's Update – David Breeckner

a. FY21-26 Strategic Plan: updates – David said that we have a strategic plan that was approved last summer. Many of the goals have remained the same. There has been some reconsideration of what needs to be accomplished. Some goals are dependent on outside partners. David will be presenting on goals at the full state board meeting next week. He also added that we do know the composition of the legislature. All committee appointments have been announced. It is hoped that there will be some opportunities for outreach. It is anticipated that there are no changes with appointments through Boards and Commissions. There might be reductions in federal funding with grants. Corporate private giving might be an area to pursue for funding. Robert Ballard concurred with the viewpoint on moving forward. David said that it is a challenging situation but that AHS is uniquely positioned to seek out other funding sources and is confident that AHS can do so.

b. Hirings

- David Breeckner noted that Alexandra Bushman has been hired as the new Media Systems Manager (Communications Specialist, Tempe), starting 11/25/24. Vince Bradley said he is very happy that she is joining AHS and said it will be a couple of weeks before she can start given the state system requirements. Kelly asked for more information on the duties of this position. Vince said that this person actively manages the social media outlets, the news email, and collaboratively works on media design requests as well as supporting memberships and website updates. David Turpie's team has been stretched covering for this absence.

9. Announcements and considerations in future board or committee meetings. Kelly Corsette said that we have a full board meeting coming up on December 6,

2024.

10. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was approved. (Robert Ballard, DeNise Bauer) Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm.