

**DRAFT - Meeting Minutes of the
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society**

March 31, 2023

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

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – Vice President Ileen Snoddy
2. **Roll Call** – Colleen Byron
 - a. Present- Ileen Snoddy, Colleen Byron, Linda Whitaker, Deborah Bateman, Greg Scott, DeNise Bauer, Gene Kunde, Jim Snitzer, Linda Elliot-Nelson, Matthew Hernando, Sherry Rampy, Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Wynne Brown, Desirae Barquin, Bruce Gwynn
 - b. Absent- Robert Ballard, Kelley Corsette, Diane Drobka, Tom Foster, Sharon Holnback
 - c. Staff- David Breeckner, Rebekah T, David Turpie, Liz Kapp, Nate S, Salessia McGowen, Kaydi Forgia, Jose Rodriguez
3. **Minutes** – Ileen Snoddy (Action Item skipped; returned to after Action Item 5. b. was addressed)
 - a. Motion to approve meeting minutes from State Board Meeting held on January 27, 2023
 - b. Ileen Snoddy- Amend date on the agenda January 27, 2022 to January 27, 2023.
 - Motion- Greg Scott
 - Second- Linda Whitaker
 - Unanimously Approved
4. **Call to the Public** – Ileen Snoddy
 - a. NAPHS- Commenting on Item 11, c. Reopening of Pioneer Museum
 - b. NAPHS- Off agenda topic.
 - Ileen Snoddy- Off agenda topics will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

5. **Sosa Carrillo House** – David Breeckner

- a. On Monday, 3/27/23, AHS received a Commercial Critical Date Letter from Stewart Title. The due date for close of escrow is Tuesday, 4/25/23. A Board resolution naming the Society’s signatories is required to proceed.
- b. **Action Item-** Motion to accept the resolution Linda Whitaker and David Breeckner will serve as the Society’s signatories on all escrow and final sale-related documents.
 - Motion- Matthew Hernando
 - Second- Wynne Brown
 - Unanimously Approved

6. **Board Update** – Linda Whitaker and David Breeckner

- a. AZ Boards & Commissions update: B&C has received an application from Austin Kerr for the Coconino County seat. His resume is attached for reference. Eric Flohr has resubmitted his application, per B&C’s request, and its receipt has been confirmed.
 - New State Board member, Matthew Hernando, reported that they had been contacted by AZ B&C and were tasked with completing a forms packet.
- b. Policy Update: [AHS Policy 9.B and 9.3.d](#) to align them with [AHS Bylaws: Article IX \(Committees\)](#) and based on previous discussions in the Executive Committee and with the Finance Chair.
 - **Action Item-** Motion to amend AHS Policy 9.B to read: “The assigned committee chair shall be responsible for staffing the committees with Board members **and may include community members as deemed necessary.**” (New text has been bolded)
 - Motion- Linda Whitaker
 - Second- Colleen Byron
 - Unanimously Approved
 - **Action Item-** Motion to amend AHS Policy 9.3.d to read “The Committee shall consist of the Board Treasurer, who shall be the Chair, and such other members of the Board as are deemed necessary. **The Treasurer may appoint another Board member on the Committee as Vice Chair to support the Committee’s management.**” (New text has been bolded)
 - Motion- Wynne Brown
 - Second- Sherry Rampy
 - Unanimously Approved by board members present; VTW abstained from vote due to technical difficulties.

7. **Friends of Arizona Historical Society** – Bruce Gwynn

a. Current status update, following F-AHS meeting on 3/30/23.

8. **Committee Report:** Finance Committee – Gene Kunde and David Breeckner

a. FY23 February Financials.

- Current overages & EOY projections – AHS estimates an EOY total FY23 revenue of \$4.158m (down from budgeted \$4.385m). AHS Finances projects \$4.262m in EOY FY23 expenses (down from budgeted \$4.545m). It estimates a total, updated budget deficit of \$103,702 (down from original \$159,985). The impact to FY24 budget, based on current drafts of the Governor's budget, is now being reviewed.
- Grants status – See “AHS Grant Tracker – 3-17-23” attached.

9. **Committee Reports:** Collections Review Committee – Greg Scott and Rebekah Tabah

a. See “Report – Library, Archives, and Collections Committee – 3-31-23” attached.

b. **Action Item-** Approve the recommended de-accessions.

- Unanimously Approved

10. **Committee Reports:** any other reports to be shared

a. Outreach Committee- Sherry Rampy reporting for Tom Foster

- Working on solid timeframes for Certified Historic Institutions and AI Merito to simplify the processes.
- Voting on a new committee chair due to the resignation of Tom Foster at the end of his term. Tom Foster still wants to be involved with the committee as a member.

11. **Director’s Update** – David Breeckner

a. Legislative & Stakeholder Initiatives

- AHS participated in the Alliance of AZ Nonprofits’ Advocacy Day on Thursday, 2/23/23. David Breeckner and Rebekah Tabah met with 5 legislators, each representing a region with an AHS museum.
- March and April meetings: Ben Henderson, Director of Operations for Governor Hobbes (3/29/23), Rep. Melody Hernandez (D, District 8 – 4/10/23), and Ian O’Grady, Policy Advisor for Trade, Commerce, Arts, Tourism for Governor Hobbes (TBD).
- David Breeckner attended the Sandra Day O’Connor Institute’s annual Legacy Luncheon on Wednesday, 3/22. Notable interactions: Scottsdale Museum of the West interim director, Arizona State Museum lead curator, Kristin Atwell (film researcher), Dr. Anthea Hartig (Smithsonian director), and Ambassador Barbara Barrett.

b. Staffing

- Yanna Kruse submitted her resignation; her final day was Friday, March 17. Guest Experience has been moved under Operations and Melba Davis. The VP of Guest Experience position will be reclassified as a “museum manager” to mirror Pioneer Museum.
- Following feedback with regional partners AHS is updating its staffing plan for Pioneer Museum: museum manager (FTE), education specialist (PTE – 30 hours), interns (PTE – 30 hours). This is a budget-neutral change to the previous staffing proposal, and provides additional operations continuity with a second staff person.

c. Facilities

- Revised facility hours scheduled to go into effect no later than the first week of July. Select facilities may see updated hours sooner. AHS libraries & archives have updated hours now in effect: reservations accepted 10-12pm and 1-3pm (previously from 10-2pm); this provides staff an hour for lunch and to reset between appointments.
- Pioneer Museum: the no-later-than date to relocate Jenny Pennington to Flagstaff is the end of September. An earlier full-time reopening is likely, working off a combination of the hiring of a part-time staff member and volunteer support. NAPHS has pledged their support to serve as volunteers. A start date of this opening structure is hoped for May or June 2023.
 - Public Comment- NAPHS represented by Duffy; Shared concern for the delayed full time opening of Pioneer Museum and is happy that there is a resolution in the works. Duffy shared her feelings on the importance of having historical places open and available to the youth in the Northern Arizona community.
- Brown Theater & Steele Auditorium: due to delays with the 48 Women proposed renovation of the Browne Auditorium, AHS is reviewing deferred improvements to Steele Auditorium which were previously tied to the other’s scheduling. This will help to close out an existing 2019 SRP grant of \$25,000.

d. Chapters & Support Groups

- Jenny Pennington, Kristin Rex, and David Breeckner met with NAPHS and Northern Chapter in Flagstaff on Friday, 3/24/23.
- David Breeckner with Craig McEwan, Bill Cavaliere, and Dan Aranda in Tucson on Monday, 3/20/23 to discuss concerns about AHS’ mission and focus away from territorial and broad-appeal history to focus on DEI and politically-charged topics.

e. Exhibits

- Molina Block – Yanna Kruse has connected the Yuma donor (anonymous)

with YCHS to oversee the transfer of \$800,000 in donated funds to them toward the Molina Block Outdoor Agriculture Exhibit. AHS is working with YCHS to provide all requested documentation. YCHS and AHS have completed the prospectus documents to solicit design-build firms for project proposals. From YCHS, this will be sent out following the donor's transfer of funds.

12. **Announcements** and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings.

- a. Public Comment- NAPHS represented by Gwen; Tuesday April 4th is Arizona Gives Day. NAPHS has participated in the event since it started and has a "Giving Page". NAPHS is hoping for a successful fundraising event. Funds generated will go to Pioneer Museum and other local historical sites.

13. **Adjournment** – Ileen Snoddy called for adjournment at 1:41 PM

Dated this 5th day of April 2023.

Arizona Historical Society



Ileen Snoddy, AHS Board Vice President

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Executive Committee Schedule: Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

Click the date to register for the meeting

All meetings are hosted are live-streamed via Zoom

[March 27, 2023](#)

[April 24, 2023](#)

[May 22, 2023](#)

[June 26, 2023](#)

[July 24, 2023](#)

[August 28, 2023](#)

[September 25, 2023](#)

[October 23, 2023](#)

[November 27, 2023](#)

[December 25, 2023](#) *Tentative

Upcoming AHS Board Meetings: Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

Click the date to register for the meeting

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[March 31, 2023](#)

[May 26, 2023](#)

[July 28, 2023](#)

[September 29, 2023](#)

[November 24, 2023](#)

<https://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/State-Board-Meeting-Transcript-3-31-23-1-1.pdf>

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