



FLAGSTAFF | TEMPE | TUCSON

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**December 06, 2024**

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

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

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Historical Society and to the general public that the Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting, open to the public, on **Friday, December 06, 2024, at 12:00 PM.**

Action Taken:

- Motion to approve the updated minutes from October 18, 2024. (Wynne Brown, Robert Ballard, Motion Approved Unanimously)
- Motion to approve the AHS 2025 schedule as listed. (Jim Snitzer, Wynne Brown, Motion Approved Unanimously)
- Motion to adjourn. (Jim Snitzer, Richard Powers. Motion Approved Unanimously )

*The Arizona Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the administration of its program and services as prescribed by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter or alternative formats, by contacting AHS Administration at 520-617-1169. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.*

- 1. Call to Order by Board President, Kelly Corsette, at 12:00 PM**
- 2. Roll Call by Board Secretary, Linda Elliott-Nelson**
  - a. Present-** Robert Ballard, DeNise Bauer, Kelly Corsette, Jim Snitzer, Wynne Brown, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Rick Powers
  - b. Absent-** Desirae Barquin, Bruce Gwynn, Colleen Byron, Greg Scott, Sherry Rampy
  - c. Staff-** David Breeckner, Rebekah Tabah, Jace Dostal, KD Forgia, Cody Taylor, Vince Bradley, Vanessa Fajardo, David Nagelski
- 3. Minutes** - Discussion and action, if any, to approve the draft minutes of the October 18, 2024 State Board meeting.
  - a.** Discussion and action for approval of the AHS Board meeting held on October 18, 2024. Kelly Corsette asked about motions on the minutes where there were questions on who might have moved or seconded some motions (Agenda items 5.b. and 6.a.). Linda Elliott-Nelson explained that the minutes were done from a recording of the hybrid meeting since it was difficult to determine who was speaking in the conference room. Rick Powers spoke up and said he had seconded both motions. Motion to approve the updated minutes from October 18, 2024, were approved. . (Wynne Brown, Robert Ballard, Motion Approved Unanimously)
- 4. Call to the Public** – Kelly Corsette.
  - a.** No response
- 5. 2025 AHS Board & Committee schedules-** Kelly Corsette and David Breeckner
  - a.** Review & discussion of draft meeting schedule: Kelly Corsette brought up the state board meeting schedule for 2025 with committee meeting schedules as well. Kelly asked for any perceived conflicts with the proposed dates and expressed thanks to KD Forgia for placing these in a readable format.
  - b.** Action Item to approve 2025 meeting schedules. Motion to approve the AHS 2025 schedule as listed. (Jim Snitzer, Wynne Brown, Motion Approved Unanimously)
- 6. Legislative Updates** – Dr. David Breeckner mentioned that this information has already been sent out to the AHS Board, which shows what these representations will be for the next 2 years. There have been some committee chair changes.
  - a.** Elections for the 2025 Arizona Legislature have been completed
    - Senate: 17 (R) - 13 (D)
    - House: 33 (R) - 27 (D)
  - b.** Committee Chair appointments have been announced

- Senate Committee on Appropriations, chaired by Sen. John Kavanagh, R-Fountain Hills.
  - House Appropriations, chaired by Rep. David Livingston, R-Peoria.
  - Senate Committee on Government, chaired by Sen. Jake Hoffman, R-Queen Creek.
- c. It is anticipated that anyone applying for AHS Board seats will not receive a Legislative hearing or be confirmed, limiting them to one-year appointments. David Breeckner added that AHS could operate within its current budget and does not anticipate a continuation of its current funding to interfere with daily operations. The impact will be on any developmental efforts or strategies that require funding beyond annual appropriations, which are unlikely to receive State support at this time.
- Kelly Corsette asked David Breeckner for a reminder of the budget request process and timeline. David said the state receives agency budget proposals in September via OSPB. After their review, OSPB makes recommendations to the Governor, who releases her draft budget in January. After January, the JLBC reviews the agency's submission and makes its recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature drafts its own budget, which it then negotiates and marries with the Governor's. This reconciliation is usually completed around May. The governor's office is not giving a direct comment on AHS requests for an increase in the current budget. There is an awareness of the AHS needs in that office. The state is operating under a deficit budget and lean budgets are expected for the next fiscal year. AHS should look at alternate means of fundraising.
  - Wynne Brown asked about terms for AHS board members and said her original board term has expired. David mentioned that there are only four AHS board members who are still active. Since current AHS board members were earlier confirmed, these members keep their seats until they no longer want to serve on the AHS Board. Kelly Corsette said that the working group will be talking with Coconino County and the request for additional funds to fund the Pioneer Museum next year. Kelly added that it will be necessary to develop a Plan B for the Pioneer Museum situation. Kelly asked if the response from the governor's office to additional funds ever provide a counter-offer. David Breeckner said that yes, this could happen, in which case the lower number of funds would need to be accepted and plans adjusted to meet the lower level of funds. David added that Coconino County had sent some letters to legislators with consideration for the request for funds for Pioneer Museum. A legislative champion is always significant during budget discussions.

- 7. Outreach Committee** – Committee Chair, Sherry Rampy, was not present at this meeting.
- a. Legislative Outreach: There is room for legislative outreach with a one-sheet information page with a focus on the Pioneer Museum and CHI grant funding. There are varied requests that have been made, which total around \$900,000.
    - Pioneer Museum
    - CHI grant funding
    - Other AHS Funding Issue requests (pgs 39-94, 147-156)
  - b. Piper Trust training: Sherry had attended this training and Vince Bradley had also attended a similar training at a separate time. Vince said that this training was for outreach and fundraising, with primary donations that come from individual donors through trusts and foundations. Some strategies involve storytelling and how to leverage the board with fundraising as resources and connection points. Vince is interested in discussing ways that these discussions could take place.
- 8. Finance Committee** - Jim Snitzer visited with Sebastian Alt and Vince Bradley at their locations.
- a. He believes that he will focus on very the complicated financials to see if there are easier ways to see this information. Jim would like to support Flagstaff to see if they can open Pioneer Museum, although with current funding, this is questionable. He would also like to come up with an endowment program.
    - David Breeckner added that AHS is in the middle of their giving campaign. Vince said that Giving Tuesday, which started in 2012, is not typically a high-profile fundraising date. It started in 2012. Vince thanked Jim Snitzer for contributing. Giving Tuesday was a little slow in 2024, but brought in \$2332 for that day. AHS is still working on outreach for fundraising. Kelly also encouraged AHS board members to maintain their memberships. Vince added that there is one AHS board member whose AHS membership has expired.
- 9. Properties & Buildings Committee** - DeNise Bauer said this committee has been in a holding pattern until a direction is determined.
- a. An area below “A” mountain (Menlo Park/The Mercado District) is an area of interest for new construction in Tucson. DeNise requested staff members take notes on what is needed, especially space.
  - b. DeNise noted that rental space in the new construction is essential, since rental income represents significant revenue for AHS.
  - c. Kelly Corsette added that there is work on an anticipated schedule for upcoming projects with properties. For the remaining 18 months on the strategic plan, Kelly said that physical plant projects include Douglas and Tucson, and developmental projects in Tempe, which could include several disruptive renovation projects.
- 10. Director’s Report** – Dr. David Breeckner
- a. The first page of the Director’s Report was to give the AHS board members a

summarized view of activities. He commended the AHS staff members who helped with posting and filling vacant positions. At present, there are 7-8 posts to be filled. In the next few months, there should be hirings that will help fill vacancies. There is more work on big developmental projects. Rebekah Tabah's team is working on acquisitions for these projects. There has been good participation with field trips. Rebekah Tabah said that two new full-time educators accepted their offers; the Tempe position will start in January and the Tucson position will start in February, which is the peak of national History Day. Vince Bradley said that they have their new Communications Manager who has gone through state trainings. David Breeckner said that Sebastian Alt accepted returning to AHS full-time as its Deputy Assistant Director overseeing Facilities, Finance, and Operations. David Nagelski said that he had met with Jim Snitzer and is working with Sebastian to get onboarded. David Breeckner said that there are updates happening with the staff directory and descriptors on who the points of contact are for various activities.

**11. Announcements** and considerations in future board or committee meetings.

- a. Kelly Corsette said that at the January 27, 2025 meeting, he would like to discuss AHS board priorities. Kelly encouraged board members to think about what they see as the board priorities. Kelly can be reached out to directly.

**12. Adjournment-** Kelly Corsette

- a. Motion to adjourn. (Jim Snitzer, Richard Powers. Motion Approved Unanimously)

Arizona Historical Society State Board of Directors

DATE: December 06, 2024

*Kelly Corsette*

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Kelly Corsette, AHS Board President