

Rio Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2023

Yuma Main Library, Room A,

2951 S. 21st Drive, Yuma, Arizona 85364

(Upon arriving at the Yuma Main Library on 3/28/23, RCC Board members were advised the room location had been changed from Room 221 to Room A. Librarians directed all participants to the new location.)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:32 pm Quorum

2. **Roll Call:** Present: Bruce Gwynn, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, Tom Rushin, Betsy Gotsponer , Faron Owl, Sue Ann Willen, Emilia Cortez, Tom Rush, Thelma Lundy, Dr. Ellen Riek

Absent: Pete Thompson, Monica Ketchum-Cardenas

3. **Call to the Public:** None

4. **Discussion and/or action:** RCC Board Meeting Minutes

Bruce Gwynn motioned to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023, RCC Board of Directors meeting and the February 21, 2023, RCC Special Board Meeting. Thelma Lundy seconded. The board voted to approve this motion with the following change on the January 24, 2023, minutes, Item 6, with “loosing” to be changed to “losing”. Approved unanimously by the RCC Board.

5. **President’s Remarks:** Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson discussed the importance of having a quorum present during RCC Board meetings. She asked Bruce Gwynn to speak about the current status of the RCC Board. Bruce said that two board positions are up for election at the May 23, 2023, RCC annual board meeting: Bruce Gwynn’s and Sue Ann Willen’s. Linda also mentioned that Pete Thompson had resigned from the RCC Board due to family reasons, so there would be three RCC Board positions open. There are plans to recognize and honor Pete Thompson for his service to the RCC Board. Linda also thanked the RCC Board for their feedback on the Arizona Historical Society strategic plan draft and that this feedback had been sent to Dr. David Breeckner and receipt confirmed.

6. **Discussion and/or action**

A. **Yuma Position:** Bruce Gwynn announced that Yanna Kruse had resigned from her AHS position as Vice President of Guest Experience and Historic Sites as of March 17, 2023, and has taken a position with the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. This AHS position is being re-classified to one that will focus on the Sanguinetti House Museum. There is an interview committee for this re-classified position that includes three RCC Board members.

B. **Goals:** Linda asked RCC Board members to consider potential goals for the 2023-24 year, such as consideration of affiliate museums in the Yuma County area for the AHS list, possible educational programs, and other areas.

7. **Director's Remarks:** Jenny Pennington shared information from this area. There are updates planned for the Sanguinetti House. This involves basic repairs. There are termites and mice present plus some technology issues. There is a possibility of solar lights being added. There will also be changes to the hours the AHS museums will be open around the state as follows: current hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 am – 3 pm; summer hours (June through August) will be Friday through Saturday 10 am – 3:30 pm; winter hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am – 3:30 pm.. From questions from RCC Board members, Jenny shared that there are two part time workers at the Sanguinetti House that help guide visitors in certain areas of the museum. The chocolate shop is not open at this time. RCC Board members mentioned that the chocolate shop is popular. Jenny added that she is only doing part of the previous position at present, before she moves to Flagstaff and that the two part-time workers are doing well.

8. **Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Update.** Emilia Cortez shared that the YCNHA had worked with the Cocopah Tribe to restructure an area. This has led to a good collaborative relationship.

9. **Announcements and matters for consideration at future board meetings.**

A. Future meetings: 4/25/23 – RCC Board Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Yuma Main Library; 5/23/23 – Joint RCC and YCHS Annual Meeting at the Sanguinetti House Museum at 5:30 pm; 6/27/23 – RCC Board Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Yuma Main Library; Summer Recess; 9/26/23 – RCC Board Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Yuma Main Library; 10/24/23 – RCC Board Meeting at the Yuma Main Library.

Dr. Ellen Riek shared that there was RCC Board interest in college student presentations about local history. There are 2-3 students who have done projects on the old plank road and the wedding chapels in the area. It was agreed that these student presentations would take place at the RCC Board Meeting on April 25, 2023, at the Yuma Main Library with the thought of potential presentations at the RCC/YCHS joint annual meeting.

The RCC Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, President of the Rio Colorado Chapter Board

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