

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday – February 24, 2010

Lyman D. Platt, President, opened the meeting at 9:05 AM. The meeting was held in the meeting room – the basement of the DUP Museum.

Those present at the meeting were: Lyman D. Platt, Karen Platt, George Cannon, LoAnne Barnes, Connie Childs, Elaine Tyler, Leo Lyman, Richard (Dick) Kohler, Susan Crook, and Lynne Johnston.

Review of Leeds/Silver Reef Tour: LoAnne Barnes

Lyman Platt once again thanked LoAnne Barnes and her Committee for a wonderful day touring some of the historical places in Leeds/Silver Reef.

Taxes, Membership List, Keys

The first item on the Agenda was to exchange keys – Connie Childs gave Lyman Platt keys which she had for the mailbox and some file cabinets.

Lynne said she had a Membership List which she used for the 2009 Newsletter. Lyman wondered if he could get a copy of that list. Lynne said she would e-mail that list to Lyman.

Taxes – Who do we use to prepare the one page Tax Report? Elaine said she could do it – it was easy, but she felt it would be a conflict of interest with her Beckam Ashe Foundation. A suggestion was made to use the Firm of Kemp Hinton Burdick and let them know that WCHS is a non profit organization. Chris Barker’s name was suggested. Susan had previously stated that the Utah Heritage Foundation might be able to help, if there was a fee.

Review of and Approval of the January 27, 2010 Minutes

Lyman asked those present if they had read the Minutes from the January 27, 2010 meeting. Lynne had e-mailed the members the Minutes. She brought a few copies of the Minutes to the meeting for those who do not have access to a computer. He then asked if everyone approved them, as they were written - all said “Aye”.

Treasurer’s Report

At the present, there is no Treasurer. Lyman wondered about having the names changed on the Signature Cards at the two different Banks. The mail box at the Post Office needs to be renewed. Lyman said he is currently taking care of the finances until the position is filled. Jeanine paid \$15.00 for a one year membership and said she would see how things go for one year – before she committed to a Lifetime Membership for the DUP Museum.

Utah Heritage Foundation/Partners in the Field Project – WCHS Accepting Donations for Them

Lyman spoke to _____ who represents the “Partners In the Field” project. WCHS has been asked to hold funds for the above project until a total of \$10,000 is generated. At that time, WCHS would donate the money to Utah Heritage Foundation. The funds would be held in a separate checking account and used to further the Partners in the Field Project. Susan is involved with this program.

The concern of some of the members of WCHS – would accepting the \$10,000 along with WCHS’s money/CD’s in the two banks and WCHS’s checking account push WCHS’s income over \$25,000 and then WCHS would have to pay more tax? Karen suggested that Lyman check with a Tax Accountant or an Attorney to get questions answered. Lyman said he would take a look at that and further pursue.

Work Day For Removing WCHS Items Stored in the Basement of the Old Courthouse

The date for moving all WCHS items from the basement of the Old Courthouse is March 5, 2010 from 10:00 to 12:00 AM. They will be moved to the old Zion’s Bank Building in the basement. There is a room there which has shelves and room for file cabinets, etc. Lyman priced a map cabinet – they run as much as \$2000 new. Susan suggested looking into acquiring a flat cardboard map cabinet. Another good place to look would be a Government Surplus store. Elaine, LoAnne, Lynne, and others volunteered their time, trucks and dolly’s to move the materials. Karen said she would bring some cleaning supplies to clean the shelves in the basement of the old Zion’s Bank.

Effort to Include all Towns in Washington County in WCHS

Lyman has talked to the former Mayor of Rockville and is trying to find someone in Gunlock in regard to joining our Committee.

Honorary Membership in WCHS

Lyman suggested that Elaine become an Honorary Member of WCHS. All present said “Aye”. Suggestions were made in regard to having certain criteria to follow in regard to giving someone an Honorary Membership, such as extra ordinary service to WCHS. Lyman asked Susan if she would be willing to write up some criteria/form as an example. The Board could vote on it at their next meeting (3/31/2010). Susan said she would do that.

Interactive Form on WCHS Website for Hours, Miles Traveled, Etc.

Susan suggested we create a form that could be filled out on the computer to record our “hours and miles spent for WCHS”. Lyman said we could possibly use Excel, however he realized everyone might not have access to Excel. Jeanine said an “interactive” form on the WCHS website might be the best approach. Elaine volunteered to make a PDF form which George Cannon can put it on our website. Susan said she had a form which Elaine could modify to fit our needs.

Grant Requests Due By March 24, 2010 – Elaine Tyler

Elaine stated that the Grant requests would be discussed at the April meeting. They would then be presented at the May meeting. The paperwork from the previous recipients needs to be turned in by the end of May. If more time is needed the recipient would have to write a letter requesting an extension. Susan stated that Grant extensions are always typical – it is like “work in progress”. She also stated that “documentation” is very important. Connie said that those who want a Grant need to have “everything in order”. Jeanine mentioned that the “end result is more important than a progress report”.

Documentation of Washington County Historic Treasures, Archeological Sites, & Records

Lyman asked Richard/Dick (newest member of WCHS) if he would be willing to do some research and make a list of the above sites. Lyman’s idea then is to take the list of sites to the Washington County Commission to see what their policy is on preserving the historical sites here in the County. The State of Utah has laws, but he is not sure if they are carried down to the Counties.

Items Not on The Agenda, But Talked About at Our Meeting

- Joyce Whittaker is taking a “leave of absence” from WCHS for a time because of health problems in her family. She sometimes reported about Santa Clara, in the absence of Sherrie Anderson.
- Lyman stated that the LDS Church is closing twelve Family History Centers – there will still be four open here – the old Nisson’s grocery store has been bought by the LDS Church in the City of Washington to make a Family History Center.
- Arcadia Publishers – will publish historical books about America – they publish and dispense the books. They will make a copy for you if request it.
- Leo Lyman will speak at the Bureau of Land Management Brown Bag Program on February 26th. He will speak on "Mountain Meadows Revisited". He will also give the Juanita Brooks lecture at the Tabernacle on March 10th. His subject there will be "Southern Paiute Relations With Their Early Dixie Neighbors".
- Leo Lyman will have the OSTA (Old Spanish Trail Assoc.) meeting on March 4th. It will be held at the St. George Library at 6:30 PM. Stephen Heath will be the guest speaker.
- The next WCHS Field Trip will be at Gunlock on March 20, 2010. Meet at the Gunlock LDS Church at 10AM.

Fort Harmony Report – Lyman & Karen Platt

Fort Harmony Goals for 2010:

On Monday, March we met with the county commission by request from them to let them know what our goals are for the Fort for the coming year. They were very receptive and positive. We discussed the following:

1. Raise money to continue archaeological dig.

We submitted a proposal to the National Heritage Foundation for them to sign so we can submit the proposal. It has to have matching funds. We wrote it for \$2000 and we have to come up with another \$2000. This is for BYU team to develop a master plan for archaeological investigation.

2. Have an interpretive sign at the Fort. Will have to raise money. Cost approximately \$2000.

We have contacted Interpretive Signs of Salt Lake City for a bid on how much it would cost for two interpretive signs like we see at most historic places. We have all the information we need and we will be submitting proposals to local business people to see if we can raise the money.

3. We need water at the Fort. We have a plumber that will install the water and a pay for all costs. It has to meet standards.

We have asked the County to put in a faucet by the Fort so we can have water to water the trees we want to plant and some flowers. The line runs along the sidewalk and would be easy to tap into. They asked for more information.

4. We would like an electric box at the Fort so we can have events there.

The electric line also runs along the sidewalk and we want an electric hook up outside by the rock so we can have electricity to use for fund raising and community events.

5. We have architectural plans for a pioneer wall and would like to start the pioneer garden sometime this year. Most of the labor and materials will be donated.

Architectural plans have been drawn up for the garden and pioneer wall. We will be submitting the plans to the county for approval. The plans have been done by Ronald Lee, professional architect.

6. We have a request through Elder Marlin K. Jensen for a land swap for the Church to swap 30 - 40 acres and donate the property to the Fort. It is about 1 year old at this point. Haven't heard anything recently but have heard they are interested.

We recently got a call from Brad Schmitz, owner of the Fort property. He said they need to

sell the property because the taxes are too much money and they are not getting anything out of it.

I told him that the Church is looking at a land swap. He said they would rather have water shares. It would take about 4 shares of water to pay for the property. I have asked Jim Maxwell to contact the Church to suggest a water share swap and do it right away.

George Cannon – Website

I continued working on the WCHS website, researching, gathering data, and gradually upgrading the information on that site. Some of the more significant changes are:

- Made contact with the man who started Pittman's Spoke and Pedal Shop (now called Bicycles Unlimited) back in the 1970's. I took photos, met with him, and set up a webpage.
- I experimented with page hit counters. I found and started experimenting with statistical reports available from our website hosting provider
- I attended the Utah Heritage Foundation training session
- I worked with Jeanine Vander Bruggen of the DUP to set up a section on historical designations, markers, and monuments. I started populating that section with data
- Attended a meeting with Washington County officials and made a presentation on the WCHS website

I attended a Board Meeting, did some administrative work, and responded to quite a few e-mails.