

Washington County Historical Society
Executive Board Meeting – Minutes
January 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Joyce Whittaker at 8:30 AM.

Those in attendance were: Peggy Childs, Lucia Christensen, Randy Hansen, Marie Hansen, Emma Fife, Bill Fife, Elaine Tyler, George Cannon, Laura Cooper, Doug Alder, Yvonne Kendall, Tricia Nelson, Connie Blake, Lewana Hale and Lynne Johnston.

After many years of service to the Washington County Historical Society, Joyce Whittaker resigned as President of the Society. We want to thank her for her continued support. Nominations were held for the new board members. Connie Blake was nominated as the 2008 President of the Washington Co. Historical Society. Jeanne Bates will do both the Treasurer/Membership and Joyce Whittaker will be the Historian.

Peggy Childs was introduced. She was the organizer of the Washington County Historical Society in 1983. She stated that history is slowly disappearing. Royce Jones, Carl Brooks, and Mary Phoenix were also on a committee – the - St. George Preservation Committee.

A motion was made and seconded – after the minutes from the November 7th, 2007 were read and corrected – to approve them. There were no meetings in December because of the holidays.

The Treasurer's Report was then given. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$6,535.79 in the account. On January 8th, a deposit of \$300.00 – was made bringing the total to \$6835.79. There were three new members – Vicki Lasswell, the town of Ivins; and Boulevard Home Furnishings. There are two Certificates of Deposit for WCHS. At Sun First Bank there is a CD in the amount of \$10,542.60. At Village Bank, there is a CD in the amount of \$5,214.87.

For the January Newsletter, Joyce would like all the information she requested from each community, e-mailed to her.

Lyman Hafen will be the speaker at the General Membership meeting on January 24, 2008. He will talk about the history of the Arizona Strip. The meeting will be at 12:00 noon – upstairs in the old Court House.

A presentation was given by Gary Sanders. He is the Community Arts Administrator of St. George. They are ready to do the final phase of restoration on the 3rd floor of the Historic Old Dixie Academy – south of the Tabernacle on Main Street. They want to approach the Eccles Foundation – to request a \$500,000 donation. \$1,000,000 has been designated. They need to raise \$100,000 “good faith” money to offset the Eccles request. The building was used as a high school until 1963. A motion was made and seconded to give a \$1,000 Grant to them. Gary Sanders requested the WCHS to write a letter to the

Eccles Foundation in regard to the above improvements. They would need the money before the fiscal year ends in June. A motion was made and seconded to support this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DUP – Laura Cooper – Laura asked for a raise of hands to show how many of the committee had been to the DUP Museum. Most everyone had been there. They are open Mon. – Sat. – 9AM to 5PM. A visitor would be able to get copies of family histories, photos, historic books, bonnets, and good taffy (candy). Each month there is a special “artifact” in the Museum which is talked about. This month, the “artifact” is about two chairs which were used in the St. George Temple. They were made by Thomas Cottam, an early settler in St. George. Each month a history of an ancestor is given by one of the members.

Ivins – Emma/Bill Fife

Randy/Marie Hansen – In 1985 a Youth Council was formed, involving the youth of the community. The Council was started up again in 2006. There was a Youth Mayor, City Council, etc. The youth took charge and planned the City Harvest Moon, they decorated City Hall for Christmas, and did Toys for Tots. The youth on the Youth Council for the year 2007 were given Appreciation Certificates and Scholarships to Dixie College.

Leeds/Silver Reef – Loanne Barnes – A plaque and interpretive sign will be made for the Tithing Building. A meeting is planned with Don Hartley on January 3, 2007 to discuss what can be done with the CCC Camp. The City of Leeds owns it. There is an offer to lease the property from the city. Dr. Alder reminded us that with old historical buildings – there is always a chance of vandalism. There is no electricity or water to the property. It was suggested to use a security camera and lease the property for \$1.00 per year. The property should qualify for grant money from the State of Utah.

St. George – Dr. Douglas Alder – We need to show the Eccles Foundation that there is support in the community for the remodeling of the old Dixie Academy. The facility can be used for conventions, etc. The building does have a resident – the basement is used for computer staff. It could become a major meeting place in the downtown area. There will be a History Fair the first week of March. There will be approximately 1,000 students participating. There will need to be volunteers to help with the judging. Any volunteers – please call Heber Jones’ wife if you are interested. On Sunday, January 6, 2007 – there will be cause for celebration!! Dr. Alder will be the speaker and the Heritage Choir will sing. It will be the 147th Birthday for the City of St. George. It will be held in the St. George Tabernacle at 7PM.

Lucia Christensen was concerned, because in the office building where Blue Bunny Ice Cream is located – the two restaurants will be leaving. Blue Bunny Ice Cream is also leaving. She is worried that downtown St. George will become like a “Ghetto”. The building is owned by Jennings and Gardner. There are nine art galleries in the immediate area. There will be a new restaurant and art gallery opening up in the same vicinity.

Santa Clara – Joyce Whittaker - They received a grant for \$1,000.00 from WCHS. They will use the money to buy “Historical Plaques” for their “street-scape”.

Washington – Yvonne Kendall – The city is considering a “Heritage Walk” in Washington. They have adopted the idea from other historical towns. They would like to make the area around 100 N. and 100 S. a walking district. Their ideas have been under planning for the last six months. They have involved several builders. There is some controversy about the plan. They would like to widen Telegraph road into/out of Washington. Nisson’s are afraid they will have to move their building. There is a meeting tonight (1/9/08) with the homeowners, business owners and the City Council at 5:30 PM. Dr. Alder mentioned that the City of Washington does not have a “city center.” They do have some historical buildings such as the Cottonmill. The process does not happen overnight.

Grafton – Elaine Tyler - There was going to be a court hearing for the juveniles who vandalized property in Grafton. They will have to make restitution to fix the damage done - \$200 for the fence - \$5,000 to \$6,000 for the doors and windows.

St. George – Dr. Doug Alder – Historic St. George Live will be held all spring in the mornings. There will be 4,000 students participate - “Historical Awareness” a Grant to teach students how to appreciate art. Orson Pratt, Jacob Hamblin, John McFarlane, Brigham Young and Erastus Snow will help out.

Elaine Tyler apologized to the committee – she does not have the time to work with George Cannon in implementing a website. She will still be able to do the Awards, Certificates and Grants.

The IRS has made new rules and the WCHS will have to file the 990 by May 15, 2008. The form to be used is Form 990 – for Non-Profit organizations. Trish Nelson stated her husband works with Corporate Tax. She would see if he could help.

Elaine Tyler will present the Certificate to the City of Washington for the January presentation. Dr. Alder suggested Tom Backman’s home at 300 S. and 500 E. – across from Cottam’s home be used for February and the Abbott home (Cottam’s old home) be used for March.

I had to leave early and was not there for the end of the meeting. Joyce told me the meeting adjourned at 9:30. I would be happy to add to these minutes any other discussions – if there were any. Please let me know.