

**APPROVED 2/28/2024**  
Washington County Historical Society  
November 10, 2023  
Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees – Austin Pickett, guest; Dick Kohler, guest; Ian Crowe, George Cannon, Linda Shogren, Teresa Orton, Loren Webb, Jesse Stocking, Jeanine Vander Bruggen

- Welcome and introductions – Ian Crowe
  
- Austin Pickett's presentation of the new website.  
Austin Pickett gave an overview of the new WCHS promotional website. It was well received. Several questions were answered. Austin was thanked. It was confirmed that Austin has been paid in full.
  - During Austin Pickett's presentation, he explained that his landing page includes WCHS hours of operation and a phone number. There is also a wallpaper setup for donating, and a *then* and *now* photo feature of St. George.
  - A user can take a personal tour, including a walking (video) tour. Walking tour scripts include *Ancestor Square*, *Pioneer Square*, *Green Gate Village* and *Town Square*.
  - Austin showed headings for "*Historic Buildings*" and "*Historic Homes*." Users can also click on the heading "*Browse Events*" which is through a plug-in called "*Timely*" which is free and incorporates email. It can archive events.
  - There is an "*About Us*" section heading at the bottom of the landing page.
  - Other headings on the landing page include "*Bringing History Alive*," "*Explore*," "*Useful Links*," "*Help Us*" and "*Donate*."
  - There is also a "*Subscribe to Our Newsletter*" heading which allows individuals interested in subscribing to type in their first and last name, their email address and then click "*Subscribe*."
  - Another feature is "*Follow Us*" on the WCHS Facebook site.
  - A membership form charges a \$25 fee, and it generates a receipt in the new member's email. In addition, Austin has created a feature that will create a list of everyone who was or is a current member of the Historical Society.
  - Other user features on the landing page are: "*Visit the Pioneer Courthouse*," "*Visit the McQuarrie Museum*," "*Browse Archived*

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*Records,* "Make a Donation," "Get Involved," and "Area History." The latter heading discusses four distinct historical eras.

- Austin said all elements of his landing page use a computer program called WordPress.
  - Following Austin's presentation, George Cannon, WCHS webmaster, said there is a link to the WCHS YouTube. He then asked Austin if Austin was willing to come to work for the Historical Society on retainer.
  - Austin said he would consider the offer.
- George Cannon presented the newly upgraded landing page on the existing website.

Following this presentation, a discussion was held regarding the need for two websites, or do we have them combined. The question was raised about the maintenance. This should be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

- George showed features of the revised WCHS landing. By clicking on "Activities," it goes to the new promotional landing page site. The WCHS landing page has headings: "About Us," "Activities," "History," "Join WCHS" and "Donations" and "Partners".
- Teresa Orton asked George what the purpose is of having two separate landing pages. George's response was that we should not talk about two landing pages or promote the idea of two websites. There is one WCHS website with two areas of implementation depending on the needs of the function being performed. The organization shouldn't have a split personality with two competing websites. Teresa said she thought the point of hiring Austin Pickett was to break away from the WCHS database. George explained that there has been a faction that would like to dump the history keeping function off to the County, but that is one of the most important functions of a historical society along with promotion and education. WordPress is a separate implementation tool than what George uses for the WCHS landing page and legacy area. He said someone else would need to step in to manage the new promotional area.
- Richard Kohler said that Justin LeClair is helping maintain the [wchutah.org/landing](http://wchutah.org/landing) page site.

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- George said the website committee should be able to get a volunteer to maintain the *WordPress* functions on the new promotional area.
- Due to the absence of Susan Crook the 2024 Budget was not presented.
  - Regarding WCHS budget needs for 2024, Teresa Orton said the Dec. 1 audit date, on the \$20,000 grant from Washington County officials, is coming up. She said WCHS has no money coming into the organization other than savings.
  - George said he felt WCHS board members need to talk to County Commissioner Victor Iverson and ask what the WCHS will be allowed to retain from whatever is remaining of the original \$20,000 county grant.
  - Jeanine Vander Bruggen said if WCHS wants to apply for a new Sorenson grant, the organization would need to apply at the beginning of a quarter, and WCHS would need to have a definite plan of what the money would be used for.
  - Teresa said it is hard for WCHS to move forward when financial reports for September and October have not been approved by the board. She said George was supposed to send his concerns about the draft September and October financial reports by now, referring to the October. 11 board meeting. George responded that he had not been able to get to it but would work on it.
- Elections discussion and potential need for December meetings.
  - No decisions were made regarding the upcoming elections in January. It was decided that no meetings will be held in December.
  - Regarding nominations for new board members, Jeanine said those nominated need to provide a bio, then an email needs to be sent out to all members showing the candidate's bio. At the January meeting, nominees would speak about their qualifications and goals. At the annual meeting, the Treasurer, Secretary and President present their year-end reports and present their goals for 2024.
- Review and approve the Oct 11 Meeting minutes.

Motion made by Teresa Orton to approve minutes seconded by Linda Shogren. Approved unanimously.

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- Other business needs.
  - Loren Webb announced that his interview with Ron Thompson is being finalized.
  - Richard Kohler reported that he had met with St. George City official Marc Mortenson, who told him the WCHS board could possibly meet in the Pioneer Courthouse until April or May. He also said the WCHS board could investigate holding future meetings in the Washington County Administration Building.
  - Jeanine reported that during November and December, she will be removing items from inside the Pioneer Courthouse. Donated items will be returned, and items for storage will be identified. She said everything has been inventoried.
  - There is a need to find a new location for the meeting scheduled for 11/29. Teresa will check to see if the DUP Museum is available. The question was raised about sending out an announcement to members and other interested parties about the change of venue. No assignment was given.
  
- Adjournment at 5:30