

Washington County Historical Society Board meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023

MINUTES

Board members present: Jeanine Vander Bruggen, George Cannon, Ian Crowe, Teresa Orton, Linda Shogren, Jesse Stocking, and Loren Webb
Others present were videographer Mike Gardner and Dick Kohler

Ian Crowe, president, welcomed everyone to the meeting, then led the group in a Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Teresa Orton motioned to approve the Oct. 25, 2023 minutes. Motion was seconded by Linda Shogren and approved.
2. In connection with the WCHS 2024 elections, Jesse Stocking, whose two year term ends Dec. 31, 2023, said he would not be nominating himself to a board position for 2024 but would wait to see if someone wanted to nominate him. Jesse has served two consecutive terms and wants to continue to be part of the Society and still wants to serve as special projects manager. Linda Shogren said she was stepping down from the Board after 1 year term on the board but would stay active in the Society.. Jeanine said three board members' positions end Jan. 25, 2024, which include Jeanine Vander Bruggen, Susan Crook and Jesse Stocking. Regarding the upcoming election, Jeanine said she had a list of all WCHS members and lifetime members and she suggested to Ian Crowe that those members, who have paid their membership dues as of Dec. 31, 2023, need to be invited to the upcoming WCHS election in January. The notification needs to mention that three board positions are open for 2024. The first email should be a membership drive and a request for nominations needs to be sent out by Dec. 4, Teresa said.
3. Jeanine wanted to know where all of the WCHS records, both digital and paper copies, should be kept, once she retires from the board on Dec. 31. She said there hasn't been a specific board procedure as to who was responsible for handling and storing WCHS records. Teresa said someone needs to take charge of the records, which has traditionally been the responsibility of the WCHS secretary.

Jeanine said she will gather all the information she has and turn it over to the new secretary.

Regarding the closure of the Pioneer Courthouse by Dec. 31, Jeanine said she is sorting out everything in the courthouse that needs to go back to individuals and organizations who donated the items.

4. Jeanine asked how many more WCHS meetings Ian was planning to hold in December. Ian said a meeting needs to be held to address the budget. He said the organization needs budget documents from Treasurer Susan Crook and hasn't gotten those back yet.

Jeanine said Susan has whatever has been submitted by board members. She said the board has never identified what goals it wanted to accomplish. She said the board needs to have strategic plans for the 2024 budget.

Teresa said without any information from Susan Crook the board can't act yet to close out the 2023 budget. If Susan can provide the information, then we could hold a meeting, Teresa said. Because the WCHS no longer has the Pioneer Courthouse, the budget would be cut in half.

Dick Kohler said it seems artificial to have a budget meeting in January, and suggested March would be a better month.

Jeanine said January is the organization's annual legal meeting and at which time, the board asks the members' approval of what it plans to be doing for the coming year.

George disagreed saying all we do is give reports from the various officers during the January meeting.

5. George mentioned that his intern Justin LeClare has resigned because he did not get paid for the work he has done on the WCHS website as of Nov. 27.

Teresa said that for George's future expenses, the board needs some estimation of what is needed for the upcoming budget. She said that normal budget expenses submitted by George and other board members will be covered from along with estimates submitted by each department or committee.

6. Loren said he received a notice from George of a Utah Humanities grant for an oral history program. Loren said he applied for the oral history program on the day George notified him, although he said he had not received confirmation from Utah Humanities.

Dick said he found that a grant deadline for programs from the Utah Historical Society has been changed from January to Dec. 15.

7. Teresa said Susan needs to submit monthly financial reports and she noted that the county audit is due Dec. 1. Jeanine said the county audit states that any excess funds not used by WCHS need to be returned by Dec. 1. She said Susan was taking care of that.

Ian said he would tell Susan Crook he wants to meet with the County Commission regarding the county grant to the WCHS. He asked that Loren Webb and Dick Kohler go with Ian to meet with the County Commission on Thursday, Nov. 30.

8. The board set a budget meeting for Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. in the DUP Museum.

9. Dick notified the board of one community project in which Lyman Hafen and Phil Tuckett created a video on the renaming of Dixie State University to Utah Tech University.

Phil is also interested in making a video on the life of Juanita Brooks. He said Phil plans to set up a non-profit organization and needs to raise \$150,000.

St. George Musical Theater is building a new facility on South Main. Dick also mentioned that Tony Allen wants to see a video created on the history of music in Washington County. Lyman Hafen has written an 8-page outline for that project.

Loren suggested that those wanting to write a history of music in Washington County should contact J.J. Abernathy, who wrote a book on that subject.

10. Linda Shogren wants to update the WCHS calendar for events and fundraising. She said the WCHS needs to have a presence in local events by having a booth to dispense information.

Loren also suggested the WCHS continue to have a booth in conjunction with the Washington County Fair. The booth has been a joint operation of the WCHS, the DUP, the Sons of the Utah Pioneers and Arts to Zion.

11. Jeanine said the WCHS needs to keep track of its goals and objectives. If a project arises, the board needs to make sure it has the money to run the organization and then plan to budget for projects.

Dick said he estimated there is \$50,000 in the WCHS' bank accounts. He said about \$20,000 should be in a reserve account. Dick said he applied for additional funds for the Smithsonian Exhibit.

Ian noted that the \$20,000 county grant was for the website, promotion of events and activities, and Pioneer Courthouse expenses.

12. Dick said there is a January job fair at Utah Tech and he would like \$200 to attend the fair on behalf of the WCHS.

He also said Mike Gardner and Dick made a short video of Scott Hirschi talking about his grandfather, David Hirschi, and the 1904 World's Fair, that is connected with the Smithsonian Exhibit.

13. Linda said the Children's Museum recently came on board for the countywide museum brochure she has been working on. She said she will mention in the brochure that the Pioneer Courthouse and the Enterprise Museum are both temporarily closed.

14. Ian said a complaint is being sent to Washington County Attorney Eric Clarke.

Teresa asked if Dick Kohler was filing the complaint. Dick said "We officially gave the complaint to Eric and are waiting for Eric."

From what Teresa had read in Dick's email in connection with the complaint, there were quite a few inaccuracies. She said it was presumptuous of Dick to make a complaint.

Dick said Teresa was not present during the January 2023 meeting. He said "We have given both audio and video recordings from the January meeting to Eric."

He said "We do want the issues dealt with, we don't want the monies to disappear."

He said Eric has the ability to act or not act on the complaint which was sent to him on Nov. 13.

15. George announced that Doug Alder passed away on Nov. 26 and the funeral will be in Lehi, Utah on Saturday, Dec. 2. Loren said for those who cannot attend, a zoom meeting will be held. He also mentioned a Sunday Salt Lake Tribune article was written by staff writer Peggy Fletcher Stack on Doug Alder.

16. Loren Webb said he was waiting for retired Washington County Water Conservancy District Manager Ron Thompson to approve the transcript from his Oct. 27 oral history interview.

Motion was made to adjourn by Teresa, seconded by Jeanine and approved. The next meeting will be Jan. 10, 2024 at 10 AM at the DUP Museum meeting room.