

APPROVED 3/13/24

Washington County Historical Society Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024 - 10 AM
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum Meeting Room

Board members present: Brad Bennett, George Cannon, Ian Crowe, Teresa Orton, Maureen Parks, Richard Kohler, Jesse Stocking, and Loren Webb. Board member Chad Bennion joined in by speaker phone.

Others present: Brady Fronk.

1. President Ian Crowe welcomed everyone, including new board members to the meeting. At the request of new board member Maureen Parks, each board member, along with WCHS member Brady Fronk introduced themselves.

2. Draft minutes of the Jan. 31, 2024, Community Meeting.

Richard Kohler stated that Community Meeting minutes should be approved at the next Community Meeting (held the last Wednesday of the month). No action was taken to approve the Jan. 31, 2024, Community Meeting minutes.

3. Elections of Officers -

There was discussion about the need for elections of officers and it was decided to follow past procedures and have nominations from the Board members for President, Secretary and Treasurer. The remaining Board members serve as Vice-Presidents. This was based upon a Board motion from last year but has not been updated in the Bylaws. Based on further discussion, until the bylaws are changed, no motion was made to make changes in how officers are selected.

Richard said nominations for officers could be done now, and at a later time, people who might not be present now, could be nominated at a later time.

Ian Crowe said he wanted to remain as president of the board because he felt he could do a good job. Teresa nominated Brad Bennett for President, but he turned it down because he said he is working with one of his business partners who is really sick, and Brad said he didn't think he would have the time.

Richard made a motion to appoint Ian Crowe as president. Because no other persons were nominated, Ian Crowe became president by acclamation.

Loren Webb was nominated by Teresa Orton and seconded by Brad Bennett to be secretary. He accepted the nomination with the provision that he is not a bank signatory. Loren was unanimously approved as secretary.

Dick then nominated himself for treasurer. No one seconded his nomination. Brad Bennett then nominated Teresa Orton for treasurer and was seconded by Loren Webb. Teresa accepted the nomination and Richard withdrew his nomination so that Teresa became treasurer by acclamation.

NEW WCHS BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2024

President; Ian Crowe

Vice-President: Brad Bennett, Dick Kohler

Secretary: Loren Webb

Treasurer: Teresa Orton

Officers and Board Members that have expired terms and replaced:

Jeanine Vander Bruggen

Susan Crook

4. Loren Webb asked if Ian Crowe turned in the president's annual report for 2023. Ian said he had not but would be happy to do so. It should be posted on the website.

5. Richard said his concern in the past was that two signatories have been required by the bylaws. Chad suggested that two signatories should be required for a certain amount of money, which several on the board agreed with.

Teresa said many of the things in the Society's bylaws should actually be in the Society's policies and procedures. Jesse said it is not totally accurate to say that two signatories on checks have not been done during the last four year period, because Jesse followed the bylaw requirement.

6. Following further discussion, it was agreed that Ian Crowe as President, Teresa Orton as Treasurer, and Brad Bennett and Richard Kohler as two Vice Presidents (since all board members are automatically vice presidents) would be the four signatories on behalf of the Society. Teresa gave Brad and Dick the form that is required by State Bank to be a signatory on the account.

4. Teresa said there has only been one check written during the month of February. Maureen said it seemed like a lot of hoopla to go through for such few checks being written.

5. Future Meeting Location discussion:

Ian talked about where the WCHS Board wants to hold future meetings. Richard said he talked with St. George City official Marc Mortenson about using the Pioneer Courthouse for meetings, including lectures that could be held for the rest of the year. He is to find out if we can hold the Community meetings at the end of each month in the Courthouse.

Maureen Parks asked what the status of the courthouse, since it has been closed effective Dec. 31. She said she had understood that the courthouse has mold and that it is a serious safety hazard. Richard said he was not aware of the mold issue.

Teresa said it was announced that the courthouse was closed because of renovation if the Society continues to hold meetings there, that could be a concern for public safety.

However, she said if Richard can get permission to use the courthouse and if there is no mold, she had no problem with holding our meetings there.

Richard said it is helpful to hold lectures in the courthouse because it has a large monitor in the upstairs portion. He also suggested having a Society liaison committee, including himself, work with the city regarding future use of the courthouse. Richard will report back before the next community meeting on Feb. 28.

6. George noted that the minutes of Society meetings are posted on the WCHS website, but no approved minutes have been submitted to him since the October 2023 meetings. Teresa said she would send them to him.

Maureen asked if the minutes of the general membership meeting were sent to the members? She suggested they be sent to the members so they can see that the board is doing something.

7. Ian asked if Maureen would like to put a newsletter together. She said she would be glad to develop a newsletter. She said she would like to gain input from current committee chairpersons that can be used in the newsletter.

8. Teresa clarified that Loren Webb as Secretary would send draft minutes of board meetings to Teresa Orton for review and editing and those minutes would then be sent out to the board for approval. The minutes of community meetings would be approved by the board and then posted to the website. Based on Maureen's suggestion, the community meeting minutes would also be sent out on the WCHS distribution list to all members.

9. Documents given by former secretary Jeanine VanderBruggen to the Society and where should they be stored?

Teresa said there is documentation from the Juanita Brooks project which could be donated to Utah Tech University Special Collections.

She said there is some legal documentation, including incorporation papers, grants and bank information, for the Society that should remain with the Society. There is a total of 4 boxes of documentation.

Loren mentioned that a poster board on all Washington County attorneys and 5th District Court and Justice Court judges, the research of which was created by Loren and Sharlene Pickett, are currently being stored by Sharlene until the Society can find a permanent home for it.

Richard said he would like to see the Society gain a photographic record of these posters, etc., for their information content.

10. Loren Webb updated the Board on WCHS participation in the Utah Public Radio/Utah Humanities oral history project.

He said he was asked in January by Silver Reef Foundation member Bobbi Wankier to see if the WCHS would participate in the UPR/UH Oral History Program in conjunction with the Utah Rural Crossroads Interview Project coming to Silver Reef in March.

Loren said he believed this was actually a follow-up from a Dec. 1, 2023 email that former WCHS board member Linda Shogren sent to Bobbi and cc'd Loren regarding the program.

Then on Jan. 31, Silver Reef Foundation Board member Ron Cundick asked Loren the same thing. Loren told him Bobbi had contacted Loren and that Loren had made contact with Kerry Bringham with UPR on Feb. 2. She put Loren in touch with Mia Shumway from UPR who will be conducting the oral history interviews. She is working with Nate Housley with Utah Humanities.

Loren was asked to find a location for the oral history interviews to be set for two days, March 29 from noon to 5 p.m. and March 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Washington City Library, 220 N. 300 East, in a conference room.

Loren made the reservations through Library Branch Manager Amanda Gardner. He was then contacted by Silver Reef Foundation Board member LoAnne Barnes who said she and Ron Cundick wanted to set up interviews with six individuals from Leeds while Loren said he planned to set up six interviews with six individuals from Enterprise, Santa Clara, Washington and Hurricane.

Those interviews, totaling 12, were all arranged on one day, Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 by LoAnne and Loren. The individuals LoAnn arranged include: Don and Becky Fawson, Russell Peine, Martha Ham and Jerry Anderson (two other individual names were unavailable from LoAnn). Loren's oral history interviews included Lorraine Jones in Enterprises, Ralph Staheli from Washington City, Sherri Anderson from Santa Clara, Gayle Smith from Washington City, Phylis Lawton and David Hinton from Hurricane.

Loren invited WCHS board members to attend and watch Mia conduct the interviews which consist of 13 questions. The questions center on the theme of what it was like to grow up in a rural community and how that has changed.

11. Loren then gave an update on oral history interviews he has conducted on behalf of the Society. He said eight of the nine interviews he arranged through a Utah Humanities grant of \$1,200 have been completed at the Community Education Channel studios.

One draft transcript has been completed by Susan Mower and has been forwarded to Virgin historian Lenny Brinkerhoff for her review. Because Susan is now on oxygen, she was wondering if Loren might be able to find another transcriber to help with transcribing the interviews.

Richard Kohler said he would see if he could find a college student at a Feb. 22 Utah Tech University job fair he planned to attend, who might be able to serve as a second transcriber. Susan charges \$10 per page.

A second draft transcript on Santa Clara-Ivins Police Chief Bob Flowers was sent to Loren Webb on Feb. 14 by Susan Mower. He said he has also received invoices for Lenny Brinkerhoff and Bob Flowers.

Loren said he sent his signed agreement (with Utah Humanities) in which Teresa Orton signed as acting treasurer and Loren as the oral history coordinator and agent for the grant on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, to Caitlin McDonald with Utah Humanities. Hopefully, Loren said Utah Humanities will soon send to the Society the \$960 or 80 percent of the grant so the Society can begin paying Susan Mower for her transcriber invoices.

Loren said he underestimated the total cost of what would be the nine completed transcripts and he would need to eventually request funds from the WCHS to finish paying for whatever transcript costs (of the nine interviews) would not be covered by Utah Humanities.

He also reported that the Community Education Channel studios on the Utah Tech University campus has announced it will close its studios effective June 30, 2025, leaving only one viable option for the Society to conduct future oral history interviews. That option would be to contact St. George City to see if we can use their studios when they move into their new facility but that won't be completed for another year was Loren's guess.

Based on the uncertainty of future use of the CEC studios, Loren said he was reluctant to conduct any more oral history interviews for 2024 until other more suitable recording studios could be found.

12. Richard said he would like to request between \$100 to \$300 to participate in the Feb. 22 job fair.

Maureen Parks wanted to know why the Society was participating in a job fair. Richard explained that non-paid and paid internships help the Society with a variety of volunteer positions. George Cannon explained that he hired one person through the job fair to help him with the WCHS website.

Maureen asked if Richard had a list of volunteer jobs or positions. Richard said he had a list and he mentioned the Society had actually looked for an online gift shop volunteer.

Teresa asked if Richard had used the Society Facebook site to advertise these volunteer positions.

Jesse Stocking, who administers the Facebook page for the Society, said that had been talked about but no action had been taken on that option.

Loren suggested that when Richard submits his request to be paid by the Society for participation in the job fair, to list the job descriptions associated with the volunteer positions.

Ian said he would contact the university special collections and video production to seek volunteers.

13. Jesse updated the board on the Smithsonian Exhibit activities that begin soon. He said there is a Crossroads traveling exhibit that is at Silver Reef from March 9 to April 28. Lectures will be announced on the Arts to Zion website, Silver Reef Foundation's calendar and on the WCHS calendar.

14. Teresa suggested that whenever the Society sponsors an event, she suggested Jesse invite Bobbi Wankier and edit the event post and then as Facebook administrator, he would need to repost and share the event. It links the Society to the Smithsonian events and Silver Reef Museum..

Jesse said some changes have occurred with Facebook. He said anyone wanting to share an announcement needs to make sure they provide him with shareable documents that he can then post on the WCHS Facebook page.

Jesse said he would be willing for Richard to request a college intern to assist him with operating the WCHS Facebook page.

Maureen wondered if the same request Jesse is making could also be sent out to the WCHS distribution list.

George said the WCHS calendar has listings for every historical event that is coming up that WCHS members can check. The WCHS distribution list also sends out notices of upcoming events to keep those on the list updated.

Teresa said she and George have worked hard to get a consistent email list. She said we should look at how we can best use the website.

15. Teresa said she had reviewed all of the records transferred over from Susan and Jeanine and some are incomplete. The Society has not received a copy of the grant applications from Richard that she said he applied for on the Recreation, Arts and Parks tax grant and the Utah Humanities grant. Richard said he would get those grant applications to Teresa.

Ian suggested the Society should also apply for a Sorenson Foundation grant.

16. Reinstating Lifetime Members and allowing couples to share a single membership.

Following discussion on what to charge Society annual memberships for individuals and couples, based on input from George Cannon and Brad Bennett, a motion was made by Richard to charge an annual membership of \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a couple (spouse or domestic partner), and reinstate lifetime memberships and charge \$250 for an individual lifetime membership and \$350 for a couple (spouse or domestic partner) lifetime membership, to be effective March 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Brad Bennett and the motion was unanimously approved.

17. January Financial Report.

Teresa said she distributed the Budget vs Actual financial report for January by email. With the \$500 donation from Scott Hirschi, the Society is at 15 percent of revenues. She said the Society needs to get additional funding through grants or some other source such as fundraising, membership drives.

Richard said the Society needs to apply for \$3,000 from the Sorenson grant, which application he said was due April 1. He said whoever applies for grants needs to document how they spent their grant money.

Teresa said the Budget vs Actual report shows an unidentified charge that was put under website maintenance until it can be verified. George said the Society needs to have all bank statements reported each month showing each individual transaction.

Teresa said the reports are generated through QuickBooks which is an accurate accounting of all transactions. Brad said if the bank account is linked to the QuickBooks account then he was fine with the reports. George said he felt that a transaction report was necessary. Teresa agreed to send the January bank statement to George and Dick to come up with a report format that can be easily populated, and they would provide that before the next Board meeting.

She said a \$576 bill from Beehive Insurance for the Pioneer Courthouse was received and is not budgeted for since the courthouse closed Dec. 31, 2023. The Board supported Teresa's intent to cancel the Society Beehive Insurance policy.

18. Richard suggested that future board meetings be held in the DUP Museum and the community meetings be held in the Pioneer Courthouse, but because of concerns over mold from Maureen and Brad, Richard will check with city officials.

19. New Business:

Ian said there is a March 14 invitation only Silver Reef gala in connection with the Smithsonian Exhibit.

Loren reported he was invited to attend a site visit on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024 of a pioneer names cultural site at Gunlock State Park with Chase Roberts and Lexi Little of the Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program of the Utah Historical Preservation Office (UHPO) in Salt Lake City and with Quail Creek State Park Manager Jon Allred and Acting Gunlock State Park Manager Colin Kuehn. The UCSS program will be seeking a site steward who would monitor the cultural site once or twice a year and report back to the Stewardship Coordinator. Each steward would be accompanied by a professional archaeologist on the initial site visit. Individuals wishing to be a steward should contact the UHPO.

Loren also mentioned he is serving on a Heritage Research Team with Trevor Cox of Utah Tech University, local author Lyman Hafen, local author and historian Reuben Wadsworth, and UTU Special Collections Director Chloe Batt who will be holding a Feb. 22 meeting at Utah Tech regarding second draft revisions for his article "The Name 'Dixie'" and will be focusing on primary and secondary sources on the "Black Ridge" referring to the West Black Ridge where the "D" is located, and the "Sugar Loaf" on the Red Hill. If anyone has information on that, you can contact anyone on that team.

Brady Fronk said Elaine Alder, widow of former Dixie College President Doug Alder, is setting up a non-profit foundation in Doug Alder's memory and legacy and Brady has been asked by Elaine to work on that.

Brady is also setting up a gun show at the Dixie Center Convention Center on May 3-4 to fund veterans service organizations and preservation of military history. He has 60 vendors and will be charging \$100 for early registration booth space up to April

20. Motion was made by Teresa Orton and seconded by Loren Webb to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.

The next WCHS Community meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 at 10 AM. The location to be announced later.