

APPROVED
Washington County Historical Society Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 4 pm
Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum Meeting Room

Board members present: George Cannon, Chad Bennion, Richard Kohler, Teresa Orton, Maureen Parks, and Loren Webb

Board members absent: Brad Bennett and Jesse Stocking

President Ian Crowe was excused.

Vice President Richard Kohler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Regarding the April 10 draft WCHS minutes, Teresa Orton said the minutes were way too long. She also said that the spelling for Peyton Lee needed to be corrected.

George Cannon made a motion to approve the April 10 WCHS minutes with Teresa Orton's spelling correction, seconded by Maureen Parks. Approval of the minutes was unanimous.

George asked Loren Webb to send the approved minutes for the March 13 WCHS Board meeting, the March 27 Community meeting and the April 10 Board minutes to the WCHS website for posting.

2. Motion was made by Richard Kohler and seconded by Chad Bennion to approve the April financial reports presented by Treasurer Teresa Orton. Motion was unanimously approved.

Teresa said WCHS has received all of the monies from the Utah Humanities oral history \$1,200 grant. A check for \$240 was received this week. She said there is a second invoice from transcriber Susan Mowers for \$610 for three transcripts she completed in connection with oral history interviews by Loren Webb of Gloria Shakespeare, Lynn Excell and LaRee Jones. That \$610 needs to be paid by the WCHS. When the Society receives a St. George City RAP Tax grant, it will reimburse the \$610 invoice. Teresa asked if a motion was needed to approve paying Susan Mower. Richard Kohler said that was ordinary business and did not need board approval.

Teresa said the board previously approved paying Austin Pickett for two hours of work he did on the WCHS website, but Pickett has not yet submitted an invoice.

Teresa said she also received an invoice from an insurance company for \$176 which would cover planned Sept. 13 WCHS-led walking tours of the downtown St. George historic district for the John Whitmer Historical Society based in Independence, Mo. The board had previously approved by online voting to seek liability insurance.

3. Chad Bennion updated the board on the WCHS bylaws. He noted there is a lot of specificity in the bylaws. On Article 3, Objectives, he said there is nothing in the objectives that says anything about preservation. Chad said he has been busy campaigning for the District 29 State Senate seat currently held by incumbent Don Ipson. After the June 25 primary election, he said he and Teresa Orton will get the bylaws and policies and procedures cleaned up and submit a draft copy to the board for its approval.
4. George Cannon asked how many board members had looked at the WCHS website landing page? He said there is an area for putting any kind of announcements on the landing page. If board members have some great historic photos to share, George can put those on the landing page as attention-getting items.

George Cannon brought a box to the meeting that contained several electronic items including an IBM laptop computer, five digital picture frames, and some USB flash drives with photos on them. He said Jeanine Vander Bruggen had given them to George Staheli of the Washington City Museum where they were placed in storage. Recently, Mike Harless and Don Young were cleaning out that storage and encountered those items. After examining them, they thought the items belonged to the Washington County Historical Society and turned them over to George to return to the WCHS. Teresa volunteered to temporarily store the box of items in the DUP Museum.

The Board discussed Dr. Richard Whitehead's proposal for WCHS's participation in a project to produce a statue honoring pioneer women with a statue of David & Wilhelmina Cannon and the Se-go Lily. Jerry Anderson has agreed to do the sculpture. The Board felt the idea was generally a good one, but details need to be worked out before a commitment. The WCHS would be a sponsor and use its 501c3 non-profit status to collect and manage the funds. Dr. Whitehead would chair a committee consisting of himself, Special Projects Manager Jesse Stocking, Webmaster George Cannon, and such other volunteers as will be needed to get the job done. The committee would be responsible for planning and overseeing execution of the project and would regularly report to the Board on progress. Richard Kohler suggested and the Board agreed the committee would be welcome to take the next step and come back to the Board with a more detailed plan.

5. Teresa asked what is the status of the two grant proposals that Richard Kohler applied for. Richard said he hasn't heard back from Caitlin McDonald of Utah Humanities for one of his grant applications. Regarding the Washington County RAP tax application he also applied for, he hasn't heard back from County Commissioner Gil Almquist. Teresa said she still needs copies of both grant applications.
6. Maureen Parks said the next WCHS newsletter will go out June 20. The deadline for submittals is June 13. She said she would like Jesse Stocking to do a write up on all the projects he is working on. In addition, she said she needs bios and photos from board members Jesse Stocking, Brad Bennett and Chad Bennion. Richard Kohler said he would give Maureen information about the recent Utah State Historic

Preservation Office meeting, and the Juanita Brooks Conference at Utah Tech University that he attended. He suggested Loren Webb also submit an article on the recent combined WCHS and Sons of Utah Pioneers field trip to the Hurricane Mesa Test Track.

Maureen said she had not heard back on the Desert Marketing Plan application she submitted.

Richard said St. George Historic Preservation Committee Chairperson Rick Atkin would like to know anything the WCHS is planning to do in the downtown historic district. Teresa said there needs to be a marketing plan for our community meetings. She said there should be invitations going out on the Society's Facebook page. She and Chad Bennion suggested that it might be helpful for Jesse to consider sharing the duties of posting announcements on Facebook.

7. Richard Kohler left at 4:55 p.m. to prepare for his roundtable discussion on Washington, Utah in the Pioneer Courthouse located across the parking lot from the DUP building at 5 p.m. At that point, Treasurer Teresa Orton took charge of the remainder of the meeting.
8. Loren Webb reported he successfully completed his Utah Humanities \$1,200 grant-funded oral history project with six individuals in five interviews (two individuals were a married couple participating in one interview) and he also successfully completed three other oral history interviews for which written transcripts have also been completed and billed to the Society. Those transcripts have been submitted to the WCHS website, to the Washington County Library and to the Utah State Historical Society.

In answer to George Cannon's question as to whether more oral history interviews are planned, Loren said he would like to do more interviews, but doesn't know where the funding would come from. It was suggested WCHS can apply for another Utah Humanities grant, as well as apply to the St. George RAP Tax. The question is where to conduct future oral history interviews, because the Community Education Channel Studios at Utah Tech University, that the WCHS has relied on in the past, is closing July 1, 2025. It was suggested that future oral history interviews could be conducted at either the Washington County Library or the LDS Family History Center. Teresa Orton also suggested contacting videographer Mike Gardner to see what he would charge to conduct oral history interviews. In addition, it was suggested to apply to local businesses such as Smith's Food King, Harmons, Home Depot, Walmart, Black Bear Diner, George's Restaurant, and/or Longhorn Steakhouse, which could be possible places to apply for grant funding for oral history interviews.

Loren Webb said once he obtained a written transcript from each individual interviewed and obtained signed agreements to donate the transcript to the WCHS website, he sent 17 total interview transcripts and signed WCHS website agreements (with the exception of one individual who was part of a two-person group interview who has not responded) to George Cannon, and George has posted all 17 interview transcripts to the WCHS website. While Loren said he has

sent 17 transcripts and signed agreements from the interviewees to donate their transcripts to the Washington County Library, Loren said he has not heard back from Library Director Alan Anderson. Because of that, Loren said he began copying his emails to County Commissioners Victor Iverson and Gil Almquist. Chad Bennion suggested that Loren draft a written request to Alan Anderson and possibly to the Washington County Library Board and bring it to the WCHS Board first, which request could be forwarded to the Library Board asking for its assistance to get the 17 interviews published or posted on the Library's website.

9. Motion was made by Maureen Park to adjourn, seconded by Chad Bennion. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The next WCHS Community meeting will be held Wednesday, May 29 at 10 a.m. and the WCHS Board meeting will be held on June 19 at 1 p.m.