

Washington County Historical Society  
Executive Committee Meeting April 28, 2021  
10:00 AM– Pioneer Courthouse  
Minutes – Approved 5-26-2021

Attended

George Cannon, Keith Cannon, Sidney Creer, Susan Crook, Susannah Nilsson, Jesse Stocking, Jeanine Vander Bruggen, Loren Webb, Sharee Webb

Welcome and Call to Order – Loren Webb

David Dudley (playwright and reporter) in attendance to report progress on “Hysterical Histories” project. This project is a means of introducing young people to local Dixie history through comedy. Susannah, Sidney, Jeanine, and Sharee read a draft of a portion of the script. The plan is to have a skit written to perform at the Courthouse, and possibly other sites, on a regular basis.

- I. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2021 – Jeanine  
Addendum distributed to provide links to website reference from minutes.  
*Moved to Approve: Susan Crook Secoded: Keith Cannon*
- II. Approval of Monthly Financial Report as of April 28, 2021 – Susan  
\$134 paid for annual PO Box.  
*Moved to Approve: Keith Cannon Secoded: Jeanine Vander Bruggen*
- III. Updates:
  - a. Liability Insurance – Susan  
Insurance has been paid, and our coverage is caught up.
  - b. Community Contacts – Sidney  
Sidney is working with Chuck Harding to organize a field trip to LaVerkin on June 5. The details are to be completed by May 23. Chuck is a member of the LaVerkin Historical Preservation Commission.
  - c. Upcoming Events
    1. 5/1 – Santa Clara Walking Tour – reminder will be sent 4/28; tour will begin at Heritage Square.
    2. 5/6 – Loren Webb Lecture – 7:00 PM
    3. 5/8 – Walking Tour – Town Square – 7 slots have been filled; press releases have gone out this week.
    4. 5/18 – Kathleen Broeder – Book “Images of America – St. George” – details to be sent out. Link on WCHS website: <https://wchsutah.org/documents/broeder-aldrich-book.php>
    5. 5/25 – Musical Program – Santa Clara Friends

6. 6/1 – 8/31 – Historic St. George Live Tours – at Courthouse Thursday, Friday and Saturday
  7. 6/10 – Reuben Wadsworth
  8. 6/22 – Musical Program – Wooden Tantrum
- d. Committee Chair Reports
1. Pioneer Courthouse – Jeanine
    - a. Washington County Fair – seemed to be a success. There was a lot of interest in the photos and the upcoming activities. There was great support from WCHS, SUP, DUP, WCityHS and Courthouse volunteers. A description of WCHS participation would help document the event. A link has been established on the WCHS website.  
<https://wchsutah.org/entertainment/county-fair.php>
    - b. Carpeting – carpeting is in and a thank you note has been sent to Schumacher Discount Carpet for their donation.
    - c. Grants – two grant reports submitted, and new grant application for \$7500 has been turned in. Thank you notes were sent to Arts Commission members.
    - d. Donation of Loom – Sandy Sandberg donated a loom, in addition to a spinning wheel, so a display of the process of cotton could be shown at the Pioneer Courthouse.
    - e. Tours/Meetings – with restrictions due to COVID being lifted, greater interest is being shown in scheduling tours and holding meetings at the Courthouse.
  2. Website/Social Media – George
    - a. The WCHS has been invited to have one or two members participate in a University Naming Focus Group on behalf of Dixie State University. Loren and George will join the Zoom discussion on April 30. The official position of the WCHS is that we remain neutral on the use of the Dixie name, but we will provide historical information as appropriate.
    - b. There is a need to coordinate events – calendaring, promotion, etc. Details have yet to be worked out but a group – Susannah, Sidney, Jeanine and Sharee will meet on 5/7 @ 9:30 (Pioneer Courthouse) to begin process of determining schedule, contacting potential participants, assigning responsibilities, etc.
    - c. Using the website more effectively to advertise and to get more information out to more of the public needs to be a major focus of WCHS and this will also be part of the committee listed above.
  3. Special Projects – Jesse
    - a. Location of statue – the City of St. George is carefully reviewing the location of the Juanita Brooks statue along with two other statues of

- historic settlers. Determination has yet to be made, but possibly will be in the area near Town Square.
- b. The statue is now in full-size clay stage. It has been delivered to Annette Everett. After her preparation it will again be sent to be cast. This will take several months before completion. The details of the final location of the statue will hopefully be decided before the statue is completed.
4. Publicity/Promotion/Community Outreach – Susannah
- a. Susannah suggested a weekly ad be submitted to the Senior Sampler to promote WCHS activities. Also, better use of St. George News and Public Service Announcements from radio stations need to be ensured. These issues will be addressed by the events committee.
  - b. Susannah suggested thinking about a “Mystery Weekend”, like what she saw while out of town. This led to many other suggestions.
  - c. A “Ghost Night” was also suggested in downtown St. George around Halloween. Susannah mentioned that Santa Clara has done this in the past and has a script that Susannah will seek to obtain.
  - d. George was asked if he could bold the word Membership on the website index to make it more noticeable. He will investigate that.
  - e. The Utah Division of Mines is working on mitigation of changes being made at the old Paymaster Mine, <https://wchsutah.org/mining/paymaster-mine.php> George has been working with Kim Coburn P.E. who is managing the mitigation efforts. She has invited us to participate in an anticipated site visit. We will also be hosting the historic documentation they provide on the WCHS website and providing inputs on new signage in the area. George is coordinating with Loren on these activities.
  - f. George brought up a comment he heard on a recent walking tour when a couple of the participants became aware of the information on the WCHS website (George talks it up at every opportunity). They said they were really surprised they hadn't heard anything about it before and suggested we need to promote it. George suggested that we distribute our business cards at every opportunity and be sure to include our website address on all articles, flyers, communications, and other promotional materials. The webpage address for a particular subject could also be included when dealing with that subject. There is an effort underway to move certain present-day activities off the website to be more efficiently handled elsewhere. First on the list is to move the calendar to another media. A mail forwarder has been set up where calendar events can be submitted. Sending all the information on an event to [events@wchsutah.org](mailto:events@wchsutah.org) will route that e-mail to the person(s)

maintaining the new calendar. All sponsoring organizations should be trained to submit their events in that way so that their events get onto the calendar and get promoted. George suggested that we may also want to consider moving the [distribution@wchsutah.org](mailto:distribution@wchsutah.org) processing to another person and possibly the [info@wchsutah.org](mailto:info@wchsutah.org) processing.

5. Membership/Fundraising - Sharee

- a. Sharee suggested a September fundraiser at the Hela Seegmiller Farm. She is prepared to organize this effort. The hope is for this to eventually be held at different locations in the county such as Enterprise, Hurricane, Santa Clara, and Washington. This is another topic for the events committee.
- b. It was suggested possible membership benefits could include access to or a discount on the price of some of the activities mentioned above.

IV. Other

1. Newsletter/MailChimp – Susan

A test newsletter has been distributed to be used for promoting activities and events.

2. George requested to be on the distribution for the Newsletter/MailChimp newsletter (including just tests) so that he can keep the website calendar up to date with the very latest information until calendaring is removed from the website and transferred to the new calendaring process.

3. Committee members were reminded to use the WCHS debit cards for purchases whenever possible and to remember to claim our tax exemption.

4. Keith Cannon will contact Milt Hokenson to finalize details about holding a noon lecture at the Courthouse. We need to know to include with calendaring of all events.

5. We need a technical person to help with YouTube and/or Zoom or other technologies for promoting activities. It was suggested an ad be placed.

Next Meeting – Executive Committee (Executive Officers and Committee Chairs)  
May 26, 2021 10:00 AM, Pioneer Courthouse

Questions? Contact Jeanine Vander Bruggen 435-574-0307; [garyvb44@aol.com](mailto:garyvb44@aol.com)