

Washington County Historical Society

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

10:00 AM – Pioneer Courthouse

Approved Minutes



Attended

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

Welcome and Call to Order – Loren Webb

- I. Approval of Meeting Minutes (including Addendum A and B minutes) for June 30, 2021 – Jeanine Vander Bruggen

Moved to Approve: Susan Crook

Seconded: Jesse Stocking

- II. Approval of Monthly Financial Report as of July 28, 2021 – Susan Crook

Moved to Approve: Jeanine Vander Bruggen

Seconded: Jesse Stocking

- III. Strategic Planning Report

Comment made regarding Item #4 was not up to date. Clarification made that it was current at the time of the meeting. Copy of report attached.

- IV. Updates:

- a. Community Contacts/Field Trips – Sidney

See Attachment – La Verkin and Springdale field trips

It was noted that the date set for La Verkin, September 11, is the same day as the Mountain Meadows Massacre remembrance.

- b. Committee Chair Reports

1. Pioneer Courthouse – Jeanine

See Attachment

2. Website/social media – George.

See Attachment

3. Special Projects – Jesse

See Attachment

The issue of a second statue has been presented again. Greg Prince has proposed a Founders' Square at the University. WCHS will not be involved with the fundraising.

4. Publicity/Promotion/Community Outreach – Susannah

David Dudley has finished the Hysterical Histories write-up. The \$500 payment will be paid upon review of the document. David hopes to find cast members to perform the program at the Courthouse.

Susannah announced that the Santa Clara Museum is open Tuesday-

Thursday from 2 to 5. Swiss Days will be held September 25¹

5. Membership/Fundraising - Sharee
See Attachment
There will be some changes to program.
- c. Other
1. Update on proposed History of Washington County lesson plan in Washington County School District – 7th grade – Loren/Jesse
The 7th grade lesson has been pre-approved. Presentation is being reviewed.
 2. Update on School District field trips to Pioneer Courthouse/DUP – 4th grade - Loren, Jeanine
The 4th grade tours have been pre-approved. It will be important to work with the school district coordinator to encourage teachers to take advantage of the tours.
 3. St. George City RAP Tax Grant - \$2500 check has been received.
 4. Interfaith Leaders history
There has been difficulty finding a videographer. A different approach may be needed. Details being worked out.
 5. Washington County Commissioners Meeting
October 4, 2021, at 2:30. Loren, Jeanine, Susan, and George will meet with the Commissioners to discuss possible funding support

Next Meeting – Executive Committee (Executive Officers and Committee Chairs)
August 25, 2021, 10:00 AM, Pioneer Courthouse

Questions? contact Jeanine Vander Bruggen 435-574-0307; garyvb44@aol.com

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
July 12, 2021

Attendance: Loren Webb, Sidney Creer, Susan Crook, Jeanine Vander Bruggen
The WCHS Officers met to determine direction to be taken by the Washington County Historical Society in its future.

1. Membership.

A discussion was held regarding the best approach to increasing membership. It was questioned whether we should seek membership or solicit donations. Volunteers could be sought rather than members. A proposal needed to present to the full board to provide direction for decision for the scheduled September 30 fundraiser.

2. Fundraisers/Grants

Donations would be to cover operating costs and grants could be sought for projects. Annual fundraisers could be held to obtain needed funds. In addition, consider use of donation boxes, giving campaigns, 1 in-person fundraiser each year, Mail-in campaign each year. Grants will be continual need.

3. Website

The website continues to be a major concern with a need to develop action steps for making necessary changes to maintain the integrity of the vast repository of information held by the Society and to ensure trained personnel are available to maintain the system. Clear decisions need to be made for changes to the website—what is retained, what is managed by another party, what is redesigned, etc. There is need to develop strong website presence with current events calendar.

4. Juanita Brooks

The continuing uncertainty of the unveiling of the Juanita Brooks statue is a major concern. There is a need to inform donors of action steps being taken to have the statue erected. Additional steps need to be aggressively taken to support the City of St. George in deciding on the statue placement.

5. Educational Outreach – Tours and in-class

Lessons prepared to take to schools and tours developed for Museum and Courthouse.

6. Community Outreach – Activities, Lectures, Walking Tours

Develop activities, lectures, and walking tours to teach history of area.

7. Historical Societies/Communities

Create alliances with cultural and historical organizations, entities, and groups e.g., Silver Reef foundation, LDS Church Historical site, and programs, etc.

8. Pioneer Courthouse Programming

Continually promote/collaborate all historical activities through the courthouse.

July 26 — 10:00am meeting with Chuck Hardy, Council Member "Historical Preservation" LaVerkin. Met at 435 North Main St. (Old White Church/City Hall)

Twenty minutes in his office, then he drove us in Clyde's car to some "points of interest!"

Suggest Tour As Follows:

- (1) View an entertaining and historical Video in side City Hall building of pioneer challenges set to music.
- (2) Drive to (a) canal; (b) tunnel (c) old bridge.
- (3) Observe historical hot springs pool, PaTempe.
- (4) Drive to newly created Power Plant Park (view power plant below, and trails to Confluence Park, where Ash Creek, LaVerkin Creek empty into the Virgin River. This could be a side venture for interested parties later on way back to St. George, or another day.)
- (5) Gubler Pioneer Home on Center Street.
- (6) Mention of "Old Rock Building ...Old Indian Cave ...
- (7) Back to location of the City's scheduled Car Show and Soap Box Derby ... opportunity for lunch and other goodies.

Note: Time Frame: 9:00am parking lot at Old Court House; 10:00am at Old White Church Bldg.; GUIDED TOUR by Chuck Hardy; 11:30 lunch available at Car Show/Soap Box Derby event on Center Street; 12:30 return to St. George, arriving approx. 1:30pm.

Chuck Hardy is the typical warm, gracious young man who was born in LaVerkin and takes pride in his "home town!" His enthusiasm is only surpassed by his desire to make this happen for Washington County citizens and guests.

July 26 — 12:00 Noon at Springdale Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd. meeting with Richard (Rich) Levin, Chairman, Historic Preservation Commission for Springdale. Sidney Creer and Clyde Biesinger.

Presently Rich has been involved with four other members of this Commission who advise the Town Council members on projects to promote/protect historical interests and sites.

Currently renovation is taking place in a main street building recently purchased to create a *History Center*/. They are working on a survey of "Our Historic Pioneer Cemetery." (It will also include simple interpretation of the Shunesburg, Rockville, Grafton and Virgin pioneer Cemeteries.)

Rich has had experience as an interpreter of parks and has researched a variety of cultural histories. He has created "distance Learning" "before it was popular as it is now," suggested, "I may be able to appear at one of your meetings as a presenter!"

Rich introduced us to Darci Carlson, Town Clerk, and Lyla Moss, long time resident and passionate history buff. Lyla Moss has agreed to make a "Presentation" for our Field Trip members. Rick Wixom, Town Manager is aware of our plans and will support.

Field Trip Participants will meet in parking lot of the Springdale Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd. p

Rich has agreed to create "an historical site route" for participants to view after the Presentation. This will be forthcoming.

The Date in October up for consideration is Saturday, 23rd. (October 16th date previously selected was "scratched" (conflict with "Shoot Out."))

PIONEER COURTHOUSE REPORT – JULY

1. Article in St. George Magazine – July
2. Arts to Zion Tour July 1 – July 5
3. Weekly articles in Senior Sampler News – Pioneer Day
4. William Carter display opened – July 1
5. Special Tours –3
6. Historic St. George Live – weekly- Thursday, Friday, Saturday
7. Zion Native Flute – Monthly gathering – July 10
8. Ironman 70.3 Meeting with business leaders – July 15
9. Michelle Randall – visit to Courthouse – July 15
10. Received noticed of \$2500 City RAP Tax award
11. Southern Utah Paranormal Investigation of Courthouse – July 17
12. Prepared and submitted article for special edition of St. George Magazine – September Ironman – July 17
13. Prepared and submitted application for National DAR Recognition of WCHS – July 19
14. Submitted Final Report for Sorenson Foundation Grant – July 19
15. Lecture – July 24
16. Musical Program - July 27, 2021
17. Prepared Special Permit for monthly Shootout - August, October, November – July 29
18. New display case for outside installed
19. Arranged for FoodieFood Tours to highlight Courthouse to begin their tours
20. Planning begun to expand hours during week of Ironman Week – September 13 – September 18
21. Planning begun to set up of a gift shop in Courthouse
22. Arranging for development of instructions for volunteers – tour guides
23. Preparing grant application for Sorenson Foundations – Operating Costs for Courthouse
24. Preparing Washington County RAP Tax application for Courthouse – due September 2
25. Gathering information for August Newsletter – update of activities
26. Setting up Leadership Academy Tours to begin October 26

George's Comments

Jesse received a phone message from Sheri Neilson saying her father, Roy Nisson, wanted to make a contribution to us and she wanted to know who to make the check out to and where to send it. George said that Roy died on June 29 and we have a webpage for him and Janice at <https://wchsutah.org/people/leroy-janice-nisson.php>

We have a website name registration annual fee coming due shortly and George wanted to know whether it should be paid from PayPal as we have been doing or should we start charging it to our debit card. Susan said to talk to her after the meeting and we could make arrangements.

George reported that the website committee has been working on the issues that have been discussed recently. The website was originally designed to serve all website needs of the WCHS. But both a board member and a committee member have observed that there are really two separate groups of functions on the website that are not very compatible:

- 1) The primary function has been to capture, organize, and display as much county history as possible. The current organization and display do a good job of doing that.
- 2) But the functions of society promotion, current events, social media, and so on are not being well served by the current database structure of the website.

So, it is time for these two functions to be separated. What is needed is a modern looking attractive landing site that then directs people to their particular areas of interest.

George has set up a temporary landing site at <https://wchsutah.org> where we can start experimenting with the landing site functions. While they are evolving, we are looking at ways to implement a more modern and attractive graphical interface. Two of our committee members have expertise in that area.

Another issue is the maintainability of the current website which is implemented with pure PHP code. At some point we will have to rehost it using some software package like WordPress. This will require a considerable amount of money as well as human expertise. But it is something we have on our radar.

George has recruited Jonathan Richards (his grandson, fyi) to help with particular technical problems. Jonathan has provided occasional help during the 14-year evolution of the website and some of the best features of the website were suggested by him. Greg Arnold, who has quite a lot of website expertise himself, has occasionally tapped his son-in-law, who is a website professional, for advice.

Jonathan fixed the problem with website forms that made our forms unusable for the last few months. We have also added a Help link where users will be able to find tutorials on various subjects (which will be added over time). Eventually, we would like video tutorials, but this will provide an evolutionary step in that direction.

Recruiting and training of volunteers to help with the website is ongoing problem. We are making some progress in this area, but it is painfully slow. We also need volunteers to develop the functions listed in "2)" above.

Money for the website has not been a problem so far. The website has cost less than \$150 per year so far. But we can see the need for funds in the future, though the amounts and timing are not clear. It would be helpful to have a website consultant on retainer who could help with specific problems as needed. Advertising for the WCHS and the website in particular could be useful.

Jesse's Email to Donors

Good morning to each of you. This email update goes out to around 65 contacts such as local government, grant programs and individuals who are friends and colleagues, Brooks family members and donors, and various collaborators and supporters on this project. We are glad to report all the major activity going on since our last update. At that time, we had reached \$56,000.00 and since then we have brought in several thousand dollars bringing us to just under \$61,000.00. In addition, we have also confirmed a large "In Kind" donation by the city of St. George in the form of materials and labor for pedestal/site design, construction, lighting, display, landscaping, and maintenance. Our designated statue installation site is at the "GAZEBO" in front of the "Historic Woodward School Building" along Tabernacle Street in downtown St. George. This spot is in direct alignment with 100 West Street which runs north and south and is just two blocks south of where the Brigham Young summer home is in St. George. The property is owned by the Washington County School District who has allocated this space to the City of St. George to be used for their new "Statue Garden" designated for historical statues in our community. The city of St. George has been busy at work preparing this site for the last month and I have been on site 7 or 8 times working with them as needed. Be on the lookout for upcoming project updates and information between now and the next few months. We are at the stage where we will meet with Brooks family representatives and our sculptor to review the full-size clay model for final approval. Once that is complete, we will expect at least a few more months for the final production to be finished in bronze. Our fundraising goal has always been set at \$65,000.00. We still need to raise more funds to pay for the statue production costs, informational plaque and the delivery of the statue from northern Utah upon completion etc. Be on the lookout for upcoming emails with more information. Also, to confirm that your email address is still current please respond to this email to help us keep up to date. Just reply with a simple "received", thank you. And as always please ask any questions regarding this project. Have a great day and remember we are still taking donations. With appreciation,

Washington County Historical Society Fundraising Dinner **Hela Seegmiller Farm**

Thursday, September 30 from 6-8 p.m.

Assignments:

Alison McCord and Suzi Nilsson- Need notification out to Senior Sampler, St. George News and The Spectrum the week of September 13, 20, and 27. Last day for RSVP and head count will be Tuesday Sept 28th, Need the WCHS newsletter to have RSVP information and where to send the money. Need posters virtually sent to several places, like Sun River and to Stone Creek Meadows HOA which is in the Seegmiller Farm area. Radio? Loren can call Jeff Jennings at radio station KJUL-FM and see if he would do an ad the week of September 20th.

Flyers- Need 100 to hand out in the Pioneer Courthouse, and DUP Museum starting September 1.

Susan Crook- Need to have a way for people to RSVP and send payment? . Venmo? Credit Card? Washington County Historical Website? Let Alison and Suzi know before August 30th, so she can put it on posters. Need to have a table set up at the entrance for people that have RSVP'd but have not paid. I have a table if you need one.

Jessie Stocking-Program- Need to get a firm commitment from Travis Seegmiller and his 15-20 minute speech. Jessie will MC. Program will start at 7 p.m. Jessie will talk 5 minutes about the Juanita Brooks statue, Jeanine will talk 5 minutes about the Pioneer Courthouse. Need to bring a microphone and speakers.

Jessie will also post the information on Facebook on Sept 13, 20, and 27 using the virtual poster that Alison creates.

Jeanine Vander Bruggen? George Cannon? and Loren Webb?-Need to set up displays inside the pavilion before 6 p.m. We have the pavilion from 5-9 p.m. There is enough room for 2-3 displays. One in the northeast corner, one in the northwest corner, and possibly one in the southeast corner, there may not be enough room for tables.

Food -Sharee Webb

Cooking potatoes and chicken- Steve, Brad, Danny, and Kyle.

Salad and rolls- Kay Jean

Dessert- Brooke

Table decorations -Toni

Extra table and chairs, coolers-Tyson and Mason (tables and chairs can be set up on the large grassy area to the west of the pavilion, if needed)

Paper products and ice water- Lori

Clean up- Loren and the rest of the crew.

Grand Total All Account \$50,123.37

Alison McCord
Suzi Nilsson

**