

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2023 – Approved Minutes October 25, 2023
PIONEER COURTHOUSE



Attendance:

Ian Crowe, George Cannon, Jeanine Vander Bruggen, Teresa Orton, Loren Webb
Jesse Stocking, Susan Crook, Richard Kohler, Susannah Nilsson, Linda Shogren (excused) Brad Bennett (excused).

Ian Crowe, President asked Richard Kohler to act as Secretary today.

WCHS BYLAWS – TERESA ORTON

Teresa handed out her report on bylaws (see attached). Richard requested that he receive a copy. Teresa said the report was only for board members. After insisting, Richard received a copy. There was no discussion about the bylaw's handout.

LEGACY WEBSITE – GEORGE CANNON

George made his report about the legacy website outlining work needed. He has no plan to work on the new landing page website at present. George expects Susan to make that report. Susan reported that the other website has yet to be approved by the Board. Ian asked how the websites would work together. George attempted to address Ian's question by stating that it was unclear to him, but that will have to be addressed. Calendar coordination will have to be a part of that. George said that the database part of the Next Generation website would be designed so that other organizations could contribute their historical data and share access to all the data in the database. Cooperating organizations would include the historical societies, museums, and other such groups. George asked Richard Kohler to report on his success with recruiting website interns at the Utah Tech job fair yesterday, August 29th. Dick said a total of 20 people had signed up, but that we would only be able to use a few since each intern would need to be mentored by a WCHS member for a particular assignment/task.

ORAL HISTORY REPORT – LOREN WEBB

Loren reported that his video interview with Peggy Childs, who was a member of the original Washington County Historical Society in 1983 with Dr. Greene, went very well. She worked on the Green Gate Village project with Karl Brooks, Doug Alder, and others. Loren also reported that he had done an interview with Dennis Iverson on August 16th. Dennis was a notable rancher and farmer who had served in the Utah State legislature, and community leader who lived in Washington City. Loren is continuing to do Thomas Durrant photo curation with George. Loren will contact Ron Thompson about an interview. Susannah Nilsson suggested Loren see about interviewing the past mayor of La Verkin (Kerry Gubler?).

WCHS WALKING TOURS – OCTOBER 21, 2023 – LOREN WEBB

Loren described the walking tours arranged for Saturday, October 21st. Four tours will commence at the Pioneer Courthouse. Bruce Pickett, Jim McArthur, Susan Crook, and Loren Webb will lead them. Flyers publicizing the event will be distributed to Huntsman Senior Games participants.

BUDGET ITEMS – TERESA ORTON

Teresa said that the projected budget for Linda Shogren's museum brochure project is \$4,000 for printing and

graphics. The question is how to distribute 10,000 cards. It costs too much to use a distribution company. We want brochures in all museums, visitors' centers, other locations. Linda could distribute them up to museums and let the museum people distribute them locally.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – JESSE STOCKING

Jesse doesn't believe we should initiate any new special projects at this time. The Smithsonian project will need full effort. It will require reaching out to each community to get them involved. Richard volunteered to coordinate the outreach to towns, using existing contacts and adding others. Loren noted that Sidney Creer's list should be used.

GRANTS STATUS – SUSAN CROOK

Susan reported on grants. Documentation is essential. Expenses must be coordinated with monthly and annual financial statements. Susan needs proposed budgets from all for the September 13th meeting. Susan reminded the Board that there are funds available for website development this year. Jeanine will not apply for the Washington County RAP Tax Grant this year. Dick asked about past grant requests and awards paperwork including county RAP.

BACKGROUND ON PIONEER COURTHOUSE – JEANINE VANDER BRUGGEN

Jeanine provided some background on the Pioneer Courthouse. Originally there was a committee with four organizations - The WCHS, the DUP, the SUP, and Arts to Zion. The committee became non-functioning from the effects of COVID. For the past year, there has been an effort with the WCHS Board to reorganize to establish a new committee. On August 28, 2023, there was a meeting of courthouse volunteers with 13 people in attendance. Susannah Nilsson agreed to continue to arrange courthouse lectures. Kathy Broadhead agreed to oversee volunteers. The courthouse basement foundation issue has been studied and a report presented to the City of St. George (Marc Mortenson). The courthouse may have to close for renovation soon. The Facilities' Staff was contacted about last week's water damage in the basement. Photos were taken. Landmark Engineering prepared the report. Ian will contact the City. Ian wants to see a copy of the signed lease. Richard said Jeanine and Ian should "light a fire" and get things moving. Ian requested that Jeanine map out details.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – SUSAN CROOK

Susan would like strategic planning issues to be dealt with during the September 13th meeting. Jeanine agreed to continue as board secretary through the end of the year. A monthly meeting secretary needs to be recruited. Susan will continue to do treasurer duties but not bookkeeping. Ian will look for a bookkeeper replacement for Susan and thanked her for her efforts. There is currently a bookkeeper on contract. George asked Susan if she had completed the financial report issues he had requested. Susan replied that it would be done by September 13th.

GRAF HOUSE IN SANTA CLARA – SUSANNAH NILSSON

Susannah said that on September 12th there would be a ceremony for the renovation of the Graf house, located behind Frei's fruit stand, at 11am by Santa Clara's DUP Swiss camp. The Santa Clara Historical Society is paying Melissa Anderson to produce a video of the event. Everyone is welcome to attend. Also, Swiss Days is happening September 21 thru 23. There will be a yodeling contest at the Swiss Days event. Santa Clara is doing their Smithsonian exhibit/activity on fruit stands.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS – RICHARD KOHLER

Richard reported that WCHS members were invited to attend a hoedown dance fundraiser in Hildale on Saturday evening the 16th of September, so September's field trip to Toquerville would be held on Saturday September 30th. Milt Hokanson and Richard will meet with the BLM director this afternoon about reviving brownbag noon lectures. The Phil Tuckett/Lyman Hafen Dixie Spirit film will be shown on September 16th at the Encampment Mall on the Utah Tech campus. Mike Gardner will be helping Bobbi Wan-kier with Smithsonian video production.

Motion to adjourn.

Attachments: Teresa bylaws comments, Jeanine courthouse committee

PIONEER COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT 8-30-2023

Jeanine Vander Bruggen

On August 20, 2023, a memo went to the volunteers who serve as tour guides at the Pioneer Courthouse, as well as a few others who have expressed interest in helping preserve the operations of the Pioneer Courthouse. A meeting was held on August 28, 2023, at the Pioneer Courthouse with 13 in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was stated to be:

1. As a group of Pioneer Courthouse supporters, we hope to collaborate to create a committee to oversee the operations of the pioneer courthouse to ensure its ongoing presence in the community. Our intent is to determine key responsibilities, and to create a plan to identify volunteers.
2. A discussion was held to derive ideas for moving forward. Two attendees volunteered to be responsible for specific tasks. Susannah Nilsson will continue to arrange for speakers for lectures. Kathy Broadhead agreed to oversee tour guide scheduling and training.
3. A list of Pioneer Courthouse responsibilities was distributed:
4. A governing body needs to be created and would consist of a Chair, treasurer, secretary, building director, and community advisors. The building director would oversee the supervision of various volunteer activities and scheduling of the building. Tasks reporting to the building director are gift shop, daily tour guides, lectures/ programs, event technicians, group/special tours/Historic St. George Live, displays and historical research, maintenance of building, security/Wi-Fi, telephone, cleaning, materials, and supplies.
5. A follow-up meeting has not been set but will be scheduled within the next week.

The goal is to have a viable organization in place before the end of the year.

Those attending were made aware of the ongoing concerns with the Pioneer Courthouse foundation. The recent study carried out on the foundation is being reviewed by the City of St. George and recommendations are being considered. Additional concerns with the structure of the building have been raised this past week due to the falling debris caused by the severe rain recently experienced.

WCHS BYAWS REVIEW 8/25/23

Questions and suggestions for changes to the Bylaws (these are not in any particular order of importance):

NAMES:

■ There are several names used in the Bylaws that need clarification:

Board of Directors - this should be the elected Board members (currently nine members)

Officers - this is referred to in Bylaws as the President, Vice-President (presumably one), Treasurer and Secretary.

Executive Committee - this is referred to as the Officers and Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs - random amount of appointed people to chair a project or activity.

Suggested change:

Board of Directors - those elected to serve on the Board of the WCHS. 2-year terms, overlapping terms, 5 to 9 members. Each Board of Director member will serve as an officer and/or committee chair.

Officers - with the recent vote to make all Board members officers this is redundant. Should be taken out.

Executive Committee - with the recent change that the Board members are the Committee Chairs this is redundant and should be taken out.

Committee Chairs - with recent changes the Board members are the committee chairs and should be changed to add that any additional Committee Chairs are appointed under a Board member. **Suggested wording:** Board of Directors members serve as Committee Chairs, but the Board may appoint additional Committee Chairperson as needed. The additional chairperson will serve under the responsibility of a Board member.

MEETINGS:

The Bylaws allow for monthly meetings for the Executive Committee, Officers Meetings and Board meetings. With the recent changes in the Board of Directors and responsibilities this is my **suggested changes:**

Board of Directors meetings - meet monthly to approve financial reports and minutes for Board of Directors meetings and to approve actions by the Board. Only Board members to attend.

Membership Meeting (**Is there a better name?**) - Monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. The public and WCHS members are invited to attend. Committee Chairs to give monthly report. Solicit volunteers for projects and new members. Minutes from previous membership meeting approved (**or should they be approved at the Board of Directors meeting?**).

OBJECTIVES:

In the Bylaws under the section of Objectives, we should include the Pioneer Courthouse as an ongoing activity to encourage historical education for the public. The Courthouse programming and use is under obligation with St George City through a cooperative agreement.

WCHS CODE OF CONDUCT:

This WCHS Code of Conduct is referred to several times in the Bylaws. What is this and where is it? **Per Susan Crook - Delete all reference it was not enacted.**

LIFETIME MEMBERS:

The section about Lifetime Members states that it is no longer offered. We need to put in an effective date of 1 - 27-21.

MEMBERSHIP - DUES - VOTING

Another issue to be clarified in the bylaws has to do with who is eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

This is not the wording so much as to express the issue.

Lifetime members and members who are current in the payment of annual dues as of December 31 of the year prior to the next annual meeting are eligible to vote on issues at the annual meeting. This provides an opportunity to send notices/invitations to eligible voters, and to allow for ballots/bios to be sent and reviewed prior to the annual meeting. Without this specific instruction, individuals were invited to attend and pay dues at the annual meeting and were allowed to nominate individuals for the board, as well as comment on and vote against agenda items for which they had no background.