

## APPROVED

### Washington County Historical Society Community Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 - 10 a.m.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum Meeting Room

Board members present: Brad Bennett, George Cannon, Richard Kohler, Maureen Parks, and Loren Webb

Board members excused: Ian Crowe, Teresa Orton and Jesse Stocking

Board member absent: Chad Bennion

Others present included: Trevor Cox, Debra Crocker and Richard Whitehead

Vice President Richard Kohler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Richard Kohler motioned to approve the March 27, 2024 WCHS Community meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Brad Bennett and approved unanimously. George Cannon suggested that a summary of the March 27 Oral History Panel presentation, that followed directly after the WCHS Community meeting, be included in conjunction with the March 27 minutes. Loren will work on that.
2. George Cannon reported that he and Teresa Orton met with Austin Pickett about changing the WCHS website to reflect changes made to the WCHS membership classes. Teresa and Austin came up with an improved approach to the change that will avoid using a new plugin, reducing the cost to program and eliminating a new subscription fee. The webpage will list the new categories and fees:

\$25 Individual annual membership

\$35 Couple annual membership

\$250 Individual life membership

\$350 Couple life membership

The applicant will enter the appropriate fee, but mostly use the current code.

3. George also said he and Loren Webb were concerned that St. George News has recently been deleting historical articles that the online newspaper had carried. George and Loren would like to meet with the owner of St. George News to obtain a contractual arrangement that would allow the Washington County Historical Society to put their articles related to history on the WCHS website but it would give St. George News credit for the articles. Richard Kohler said he would like to work with George and Loren on that project.
4. Richard Whitehead, a lifelong St. George resident and retired dentist, sought the Washington County Historical Society's support for a sculpture project he is working on to honor David Henry and Wilhemina Logan Cannon in connection with their Segó Lily story. Richard Whitehead said Wilhemina was raised on the East Coast and later met David Cannon. They later married and were then called during the October 1861 conference to the Cotton Mission in St. George. She was very sophisticated and when she got to St. George, she became very disillusioned with the cactus and sagebrush. The couple had a young baby and after six months of living here, she had had enough of the area's harsh environment. She wanted to return to Salt Lake City. Disheartened, she told her young husband that if he could show her one single thing about the place which was beautiful, she could be satisfied to remain and work for the future. When he was working on a hill, he saw some sego lilies and picked them. As he returned home, he fell and severely injured his leg. When she saw him injured and when she also saw the sego lilies he was holding, he won her heart and she stayed. Richard Whitehead said the Death Valley Days television series did an episode on the Segó Lily story. He said he and others want to build a monument to honor the pioneer women who sacrificed so much to settle in Utah's Dixie. The sculpture features Wilhelmina along with her husband David Cannon presenting her with the beautiful Segó Lily he had brought her. Richard Whitehead said sculptor Jerry Anderson has agreed to the sculpture for \$115,000. The goal would be to place the statue in front of the new St. George City offices under construction at Main and 100 South. A second copy of the statue could be done for considerably less and would be located behind the Utah State Capitol Building in Salt Lake City. A motion was made by Richard Kohler, and seconded by Maureen Parks, to authorize George Cannon and Jesse Stocking to work with Richard Whitehead to develop a written proposal for the WCHS board to review, with the possibility of WCHS later sponsoring the Segó Lily sculpture project. The motion was unanimously approved.
5. Loren Webb reported that on April 9 he requested Caitlin McDonald of Utah Humanities for a \$240 check to pay the remainder of the \$1,200 invoice transcriber Susan Mower had submitted for transcribing six oral history interviews. He said he sent Google documents on April 9 related to grant

requirements, and was told he needed to re-send the documents as pdfs, so he re-sent the pdf documents on April 19 and is still waiting to hear whether he has fulfilled the Utah Humanities grant requirements.

6. Loren Webb also reported the WCHS Board last week held an emergency online meeting and voted 7 to 0 (two board members did not vote) to approve applying for \$176 in liability insurance to cover a Sept. 13, 2024 St. George Downtown Walking Tour to be led by WCHS tour guides Richard Kohler and Loren Webb (along with a yet to be named Brooks family representative) on behalf of the John Whitmer Historical Society in Independence, Mo. who requested the tour. Teresa Orton contacted the insurance carrier and obtained the liability insurance figure. Loren also mentioned the JHWA will charge its members for the tours and they would donate those funds to the WCHS.
7. Maureen Parks said the next WCHS newsletter will come out in June. She suggested that board members, who are busy on various projects, take time to write about their projects and submit their articles to the WCHS newsletter. She also suggested an effort be made to develop liaisons from various towns in Washington County with the WCHS. Trevor Cox asked to be added to the newsletter emailing list.
8. Richard Kohler reported he and Loren Webb, along with Trevor Cox from Utah Tech University, attended Friday's Juanita Brooks Conference held at the Taylor Auditorium. Richard and 100 other persons attended the Saturday field trip to Hildale, Utah and Colorado City, Ariz. They visited the Isaac Carling Memorial Park, the Colorado City Community Center and visited an old school house where Arizona and federal law enforcement authorities conducted raids in 1953 on local polygamists. Richard said they heard first person accounts from Shirley Draper and Hildale Mayor Donia Jessop. Richard said during the fall of 2023, he met Jethro Barlow from the Hildale-Colorado City area. Richard would like to invite Jethro, as a representative and liaison from that area, to attend future WCHS community meetings. Motion was made by Maureen Parks and seconded by Loren Webb to authorize Richard Kohler to contact Hildale-Colorado City resident Jethro Barlow and others who could be liaisons between their community and the WCHS. Motion was unanimously approved.
9. George said the Society's most popular web page is the online calendar. Efforts need to be made to get more people to check the calendar regularly.
10. Richard said he would like to invite Janet Seegmiller (author of the History of Iron County and a retired Southern Utah University Special Collections librarian) from Cedar City to present a lecture on the History of the Utah Parks Company and to have Amanda Scott (a Utah Tech University English Department instructor) present a lecture on Maurine Whipple and her book *The Giant Joshua*. Following Richard's request, Loren Webb motioned, and Brad Bennett seconded

to allow Richard Kohler re-institute a monthly lecture program sponsored by the WCHS with lectures to be held at the Pioneer Courthouse and possibly at the new Washington County Administration Building. Lectures would begin in June or July.

11. Loren Webb said Tuesday he received a draft transcript of Hurricane Police Chief Lynn Excell's oral history interview from transcriber Susan Mower. Loren made corrections and then forwarded it on to Lynn Excell for his review.

Motion was made by Loren Webb to adjourn and seconded by Richard Kohler. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

The next WCHS board meeting will be held Wednesday, May 15 at 4 p.m. The next WCHS community meeting will be held Wednesday, May 29 at 10 a.m.