

APPROVED

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum Meeting Room

Board members present: Brad Bennett, Chad Bennion, George Cannon, Ian Crowe, Teresa Orton, Maureen Parks, and Loren Webb.

Board members absent: Richard Kohler and Jesse Stocking.

Others present: Matt Clark, Trevor Cox, Brady Fronk, Mike Harless, Judy Holly, Sharla Brooks Moody, Linda Shogren and Richard Whitehead.

Ian Crowe, president, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

1. Motion was made by Maureen Parks and seconded by Teresa Orton to accept the minutes of the Aug. 28, 2024 WCHS Community meeting without corrections. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Loren Webb reported for Jesse Stocking that he contacted Marc Mortensen, assistant to the City Manager regarding our continued use of the Pioneer Courthouse and nothing was decided.
3. George Cannon said he contacted Lyman Hafen of Santa Clara and wants to put Lyman's historical podcasts on a WCHS website link for the public to access.
4. Richard Whitehead updated the board on the David and Wilhelmina Cannon statue project. The total cost of the project is \$115,000. To date, \$26,000 has been raised and he has commitments for another \$11,000. The sculptor, Jerry Anderson of Silver Reef has sent clay models of the statue to the foundry in the Salt Lake City area.

Richard noted that St. George City officials John Willis and Marc Mortensen agreed that the Cannon two-piece statue should be placed in the plaza of the new St. George City offices, currently under construction on the east side of 100 South Main across from the old Dixie Academy Building (now Children's Museum).

5. Sharla Brooks Moody, daughter of former Mayor Karl and Karla Brooks and granddaughter of local author Juanita Brooks, told the board how the newly created Juanita Brooks Historical Preservation Society in St. George came about.

She gave a presentation about the future plans and goals of the Preservation Society and was looking to bring awareness to the community. This is a long-term project and they are working with the City and LDS Church to create a new museum and education center on north Main Street in the homes of the Brooks family.

Maureen Parks said Sharla is welcome to contribute news items related to the Juanita Brooks Preservation Society in the WCHS newsletter.

6. Matt Clark, representing the Lynn Clark Photo Collection (LCPC), presented to the group the Clark family goal to find a permanent home for the collection and stay within the requirements of Lynn Clark's will. Discussion was held about the size of the collection and possible solutions.

Chad Bennion said that while local governments can also help, the Society needs to come up with an operational and logistical plan for carrying out the Clark family's wishes. A Society steering committee meeting is set for Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 5:15 p.m. in the DUP Museum.

7. Trevor Cox, visiting assistant librarian of heritage, culture and regional history at Utah Tech University, said digital exhibits will be up at the Heritage Cove Monument on the UTU campus by the end of the year. Trevor said he will also be giving a lecture Thursday on Elizabeth Kane, wife of Thomas Kane who was a close friend of LDS President Brigham Young. The lecture will focus on the journal that Elizabeth Kane kept while living in St. George in the 19th century. Another project, Then and Now, a written memories project at UTU Library, has been approved and will be up and running this week on the Heritage Cove webpage, he said.

8. Loren Webb reported that the four St. George Historical Walking Tours are scheduled in October as follows: Town Square Tour led by Jim McArthur on Oct. 12, the Ancestor Square Tour led by Loren Webb on Oct. 12, the Pioneer Courthouse Tour led by Bruce Pickett on Oct. 19 and the Green Gate Village Tour led by Susan Crook on Oct. 26. Loren said he sent an Eventbrite flier that lists each tour to the WCHS Facebook site, to the WCHS newsletter, to the WCHS

distribution list and to St. George News. However, only one person has signed up for all four tours. Teresa Orton suggested contacting the Greater Zion Convention and Tourism Office to assist with publicity.

9. Loren Webb recapped the recent Dixie Days historic treks organized by the Sons of Utah Pioneers with the backing of the City of St. George. The treks included a tour of the St. George Tabernacle attic, a tour of Watercress Springs (West Springs), a tour of the Middleton Tunnel, Hernia Dam and the first St. George Water tank located on the Red Hill, along with a fourth tour of the Escalante No. 2 oil well that exploded in March 1935 and killed 10 people. All four tours were highly successful.

10. Loren Webb also reported that he and Reuben Wadsworth of Hurricane, led two WCHS tours of the St. George downtown historic district on behalf of the John Whitmer Historical Association based in Independence, Mo., on Sept. 13. A total of 29 individuals participated in the tours. The JWHA has committed to donate proceeds from the tour fees to the WCHS.

11. Brady Fronk, a local book collector, said he has 30 boxes of former Dixie College President Doug Alder temporarily housed in his home. He said 50 percent of Alder's papers have been scanned. Brady is also working with Randall and Nicki Pace to save the old Washington County News building and its contents. Brady is also working with the Washington County Commission to create a Washington County Historic Preservation Commission to work with all local historical societies in digitizing historical collections.

The next WCHS Board meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m.

The next WCHS Community meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 10 a.m.

Motion was made by Maureen Parks and seconded by Teresa Orton to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.