

APPROVED

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum Meeting Room

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

Board members absent: Acting Board member Linda Shogren, Teresa Orton and Jesse Stocking.

Others present: Carol Beam, Trevor Cox, Caitlinn Grimm, Ron Snow, Sharon Snow and Dick Whitehead.

1. Ian Crowe, president, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- 2a. Motion was made by Maureen Parks and seconded by Chad Bennion to approve minutes of the 9-25-24 WCHS Community meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2b. Motion was made by Chad Bennion and seconded by Brad Bennett to approve minutes of the 10-30-24 WCHS Community meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Chad Bennion said he and Board member Teresa Orton are putting together a Policy and Procedures Manual in connection with the draft WCHS Bylaw changes. The proposed Bylaw changes will be sent out via email. Any member who doesn't have an email notification will need to be made no later than Dec. 29, 30 days prior to the Jan. 29 annual meeting.
4. George said any WCHS member who renews their membership prior to the Jan. 29, 2025 annual meeting is eligible to vote for board members. To see if you are a member, check <https://wchsutah.org/wchs/members.php>. It is kept current and will be updated as of the evening of 1/28/2024. That list, together with the list of memberships paid immediately prior to the start of the annual meeting will be the voter list. See <https://wchsutah.org/wchs/governance.php>. To run for the board, you need to be a member prior to the Jan. 29 meeting. Loren Webb, Teresa Orton, Ian Crowe, Brad Bennett and George Cannon's board seats are up for election.

5. George is having difficulty keeping up with all of the material submitted for placement on the website. Dixie Photo Studios photos are being submitted to the website. Dick Whitehead said Odegard Studios was the precursor to Dixie Photo Studios and Lynn Clark Studios. One of the features on the WCHS website is a page feedback button on the left side of every page where one may submit comments on website items. David Peterson was able to get two monuments erected at the oil well explosion site. Information about Francis Daggett allowed a grave site monument to be installed at the St. George City Cemetery. The WCHS will be coordinating with the Utah State Historical Society to assist with updating a statewide database of monuments and markers. Sharon Snow said there are a number of historical markers that are housed inside public buildings that should also be included in the USHS database. Trevor Cox suggested putting the monuments and markers on a map and having a scavenger hunt.

6. Maureen Parks said a St. George News reporter contacted her seeking information about the history of Leeds and Silver Reef and she referred him to the WCHS website. Trevor Cox also noted that the Silver Reef Miner newspaper is online at *Utah Digital Newspapers*. Caitlinn Grimm said Utah Tech University Special Collections has physical copies of the newspapers available for viewing by the public. *Utah Digital Newspaper* ends in 1945. Caitlinn said *The Spectrum* newspaper and the *Washington County News* are on microfilm at Utah Tech University but are still not available in a digital format.

7a. Dick Whitehead reported that the David and Wilhelmina Cannon Seago Lily bronze statues will be picked up at a foundry in northern Utah and will be returned to sculptor Jerry Anderson's home in Silver Reef within two weeks. State legislators, Don Ipson and Walt Brooks, have been helpful in applying for a state grant and appreciated the help from George Cannon and Teresa Orton. To date, \$50,000 in donations have been received or pledged to go towards the \$115,000 total cost for the two statues. The statues will be placed in front of the new St. George City Offices Plaza. The statue and city offices will be finished sometime in 2025. For instructions on how to donate to the statue project, see <https://wchsutah.org/miscellaneous/sego-lily-statue-donate.php>

7b. Ian Crowe and Brad Bennett said that Rick Erickson, who serves as a deputy Washington County Attorney, had been teaching a *History of St. George and Washington County* class at Utah Tech University sometime during the 2021-2022 school year and was getting ready to teach to a full enrollment at the beginning of a new semester when his class was cancelled by UTU administration with no explanation. Rick asked Ian and Brad if they could check with the university administration to see if he could get his teaching job back. Erickson's class was through *Community Education*. Trevor Cox said the *Written Memories (Then and Now) Project* at Utah Tech University is up and running and invited people with any memories of living in the Virgin River

Basin or Arizona Strip to submit their memories to the project. Loren Webb suggested Trevor might want to reach more of the public by writing an article for *St. George News*, *The Spectrum newspaper*, *The Sun* (UTU) newspaper as well as submitting articles to the WCHS Facebook, Newsletter and Distribution List.

7d. Trevor Cox is also working to create a series of local lectures to be held at the university in February. Caitlinn Grimm noted that the *Juanita Brooks Conference* will not be held at the university this coming year. However, the *Juanita Brooks Lecture Series* will be held April 11 in the Dunford Auditorium at UTU from 6-7 p.m.

8. The next WCHS Board meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. in the DUP Museum. The WCHS Annual meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m. in the DUP Museum.