

Rio Blanco County Historical Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 30, 2019
Heritage Culture Center

Call to Order: 5:48 pm

In attendance: Terri Reed, Niki Turner, Steve Loshbaugh. Jay Sullivan, Kay Bivens, Bob Amick, Libby Morton, Patti Anderson, Johnny Barton

Agenda additions & approval:

- Jay Sullivan - Emphasis on the right syllable? Discuss during other meetings
- Steve L - logo, Fairfield project, staffing issues, presentation skills workshop (SL/JS)

Minutes: SL/JS approved

Committee Reports:

Museum: Libby

- team for the 4th of July stagecoach (Kaysyn Chintala - Trapper's Lake) We'll pay travel expenses and put a sign on the back
- 162 people/72 kids visited... last year 149/70; 31 kids to Easter egg hunt; Sunday afternoon some stragglers
- 3 school visits coming in May - 2nd grade, Snake River JH from Savory, homeschool group from GWS
- \$53 sales, \$159 donations
- cleaning out the back room... may go on in perpetuity
- summer hours begin tomorrow (9-5)
- donation from Dr. H. David Chapman — box of cast iron items, 1863 cherry pitter; we do have some duplicates; anything we choose not to use can be sold in benefit
- Gift Shop: balance last month \$3660.01; check for \$74.50 to Warner Pub. to buy 5 copies of Nathan Meeker book
- Lee Smith is going to work for Bill Ekstrom; would still like to retain some time at the museum. Libby would be grateful for that. Scheduled for about 4 days next month.
- Progress on the lights? It's been a year.

Kay: Question about helping spruce up with school visits coming? Sign at the gravesite?

Libby: Weather has prevented us

Accessions: Patty

- Accepted from Dr. Chapman

Libby - might want to determine which ones are best to keep and which to sell (with permission)

Bank Robbers Trail: Kay

- (TR) Town of Meeker having a meeting to talk about cemetery taking ownership of hillside
- Presented to Fairfield, state grant has been applied for

HCC - TR

- cleaning has been ongoing, Lee will finish sign before he leaves; lighting needs to go up, still need a projector
- JS has offered to buy flat files from the back room
- KB moved, PA seconded

Lighting - BA

- concerns expressed about lack of board members and number of meeting missed by members, not enough people representing the board as board members, not just committee members
- JS expressed concern that BA is stretched too thin with committees to be effective; moved to terminate any agreement with lighting contractor and move ahead, 2nd by PA
- BA explained that contractor (Cale?) is working pro bono and can't be pushed for a time limit or schedule, and that his involvement is a "gift"
- BA said he's also getting information about projector and sound equipment from Wayne Pleasant at the New Ute Theatre in Rifle, waiting on recommendations
- JS said there may be "junked" equipment coming available with the renovations at the high school
- BA said he would need to see what was available.
- JS said he is frustrated by a lack of progress.
- The motion to cancel any agreements with the lighting contractor failed

Milk Creek Park Signs - JS

- ready to plant as soon as the ground is ready; Joe Livingston has volunteered his skid steer and posthole digger; a week's worth of work scheduled
 - KB has a person interested in doing the yard work at Milk Creek and Coal Creek; Tom Cook said he would like to do it for less than what Emerald is charging
 - TR ask him for a proposal
 - JS would be happy to go check out the ground, gazebo almost ready to finish staining
 - brochure done by Linda, one picture missing, Medicine Man Johnson
- Coal Creek - Handout from Janet

Website/Technology - BA

- presentation from Kasey Cox (IT specialist and website host) regarding website redesign
- funding would come from general fund
- would need to work with one or two people for design
- NT who are we paying and how much each year or month for our hosting? Only need one or two people to work on the site once it's updated
- Brandon and Kasey, discussion to work together to do design and layout
- JS - important that person be available on some kind of business, regular schedule to do that... someone we have oversight of should be responsible
- look at other museum websites
- JS moved that current website be taken down and replaced with an under construction message
- BA as chair of that committee that would be disastrous
- JS move that chair of website committee undertake review of site and remove outdated items, SL seconded
- NT move to hire Kasey Cox, SL seconded

Quarterly Meeting: KB

- make a motion to have history kids come do their presentation at the April meeting every year, seconded by SL

Freeman Fairfield Project: TR

- asked about Fairfield kiosk at Center by Fairfield board
- letter written in 2016, found in 2017
- BA - could go along with second phase of grant

Staffing: TR

- need to hire more people for museum

- KB: we have cleaning, clerical, signmaking, PR, research, support to committees... there's more than one person can accomplish
- JS: depends on capability and skill set; paid staff should be capable of doing things and if they're asked to do something through appropriate channels (president)
- SL: I think Libby could do the initial screening, but the final say is up to us
- TR: yes, I would participate in that process; Libby and I will screen them together and bring the finalists
- JS: move for TR and LM to put together a job description for two part-time positions and do the initial screening, make a recommendation to the board, 30 days; SL seconds

Presentation Skills: TR

- we need to organize ourselves better when we're presenting in front of any group: meet together, talk together, plan and orchestrate
- Need to make things shorter, more concise, more complete and present professionally
- someone (PA) suggested reinstating the newsletter, a door prize and a treasurer's report at quarterly meeting...

TR handed off the gavel and moved to do the above

JS second - approved

JS - will offer a limited edition artwork as a door prize

BA - point of contention with comment about Town of Meeker; I don't think it was that bad of a presentation... I'm running this project and you're not; you're acting on my authority as project coordinator

JS - If there's any acting under authority, it's you under her (TR) authority

BA - I chair that committee, do all the work on it, and asked people to come to that presentation; we've always operated with committee chairs doing the work; I don't appreciate being undermined

TR - I didn't undermine you. Going forward it would be good for us to operate as a contiguous operation. Not saying anything critical to what has happened before. Would like to have a better presentation approach going forward. Suggesting we develop better presentation skills as a group.

JS - I heard BA say he wants the same thing.

Logo: SL moved to adopt new logo /PA 2nd

Garrison - Johnny

- planning the work to be done, would like TR and a board member to do a walk through when he gets back, has oil ready and most of the materials needed

NT moved to table discussion on membership development, volunteer development, Hayden museum event, JS 2nd

Move to adjourn: NT, JS