Rio Blanco County Historical Society Board Minutes Feb. 25, 2020 Heritage Culture Center

Called to order at 5:52 p.m. by President T. Reed

Attendance: Terri Reed, Niki Turner, Margaret Granzella, Luke Trout, Jay Sullivan, Libby Morton, Janet Clark, Mona Avey, Chris Babcock, Kay Bivens, Bob Amick, Nancy Harmon Richardson

Agenda Additions:

- LT update on Yellow Creek Schoolhouse
- MOTION to approve agenda KB, JS

Minutes from last meeting:

MOTION to approve Jan. 28 minutes KB, JS

New board introductions:

- Luke BLM archaeologist, White River Field Office; background in prehistoric archaeology; Yellow Creek Schoolhouse is on BLM land, hope to get some kind of collaborative agreement with BLM;
- Margaret interesting in local history, important to know history of where you live
- Mona always loved the history of our community
- Chris moved to Meeker July 2019; has Hugus Building listed for sale, interested in local history, White River Valley; like to be involved with local organizations and ambitious projects
- Nancy president of MACC; works for RBC treasurer's office and school PT

2020 Restated Bylaws

- Changes to Sec. 3.1.3 (youth advisory council members); JS suggested adding "shall review annually" the youth's term of membership
- MOTION to approve CB, LT
- Changes to 4.3.3 (executive sessions)
- MOTION to approve LT, MG
- Changes to 4.11 (attendance clause); was in previous bylaws but was not commuted over; JS asked if this addresses if a board member can vote in absentia/proxy; TR answered in 4.5; would like stronger language: "...will be removed from the board"
- MOTION to approve JS, CB
- Changes to 5.5.2 (duties and title of president); clarify roles and responsibilities of the president of the RBCHS, was approved in 2018, did not get commuted to the revised bylaws; JS important to clarify and follow a command structure, may subordinate the board to the executive officer, not sure that's appropriate... specify that any officer may

be removed by a vote of the board of directors ... responsibility of the board to say what the executive officers are doing is acceptable or not ... 4.8 doesn't specify officers or who would take the action to remove an officer; CB suggested changing 5.5.2 subsection A.4 last sentence to "as may be determined necessary by the president and the approval of the board"

- MOTION to approve LT, MG
- BA suggested reviewing changes with Sandra B.
- Changes to 6.1 (standing committees): museum includes accessions and gift shop because they operate differently with different budgets; historic trails and antiquities; IT to include website, security system, building electronics. All standing committees will be chaired by an elected member of the board of directors, etc. The chair of each committee may delegate related functions and authority, but must assume responsibility in supervising and reporting to the board. JS - committee chairs are obligated to communicate with the board and the officer.
- Discussion about History Lives (JS); also collaborating with MACC for art classes; CB fundraising idea for MACC to use for movie nights, partnering with library to use their license to show movies throughout the week
- MOTION to approve KB, MG

Budget Review & Approval

- \$89K in the bank in all of the accounts, not including rural schools which is at BOSJ
- P&L, bottom line says (-\$6K) because money that was already in the budget earmarked for projects was spent last year on those projects
- \$42K coming from the county this year (not included); \$2K goes toward utilities in HCC
- TR would like to buy a simple laptop for the HCC; JS said he has one we can try out
- Will also need a few hundred for paint and caulking for HCC
- Opened separate accounts for Bank Robbers Trail and Designated Signage to keep track of the funding that's coming in, suggesting adding \$2K from RBCHS to each of those accounts; JS when we are asking other organizations for funding what do they mean when they ask what RBCHS is doing? TR they want to know the RBCHS has skin in the game; some funding options require a match
- CB is it more effective to have a line item on the budget or a separate account? TR CPA has advised us to keep everything as separate as possible
- JS committee chairs are responsible for their own budgets for their projects
- MOTION to put \$2K in accounts for signage and bank robbers trail, JS, CB

Committee Reports:

Museum

- February attendance is up; income is coming back up
- Employee resignation March 1 (Doc); would prefer not filling that position at this time; JS suggested offering him some gift in recognition for his service, LM suggested a set of "This Is What I Remember"

- Piceance Creek Wild Horse Group is soliciting \$100 donation for an ad on their upcoming calendar
- MOTION to decline donation, MG, MA
- The museum hosted a busload of 58 stranded tourists; provided a movie, coffee, donuts and popcorn; tour group comes through 4-5 times a year and will add the museum as a stop on their tour henceforth

Rural Schools - Janet

- Flagpole ordered and being stored (Brown family ancestor was a teacher at the school)
- Someone (county owns the property) will dig the hole
- Still need to purchase the flag, Brown family may want to do that, also doing a plaque
- In contact with contractor for belfry installation
- \$300 for rural schools for future projects
- Donation box is done, interpretive signage is in the works

Milk Creek Battlefield Park - JS

- Snowed in; will need to print another round of brochures (Vistaprint)
- Need to get bids for pathway to make it wheelchair friendly
- Going to communicate with Buffalo soldiers; group out of Denver whose ancestors where there
- TR Group coming May 16, (Hotchkiss Paranormal Investigators) planning to visit Milk Creek

HCC-TR

- Need laptop for media system; JS may have one that will work
- Need paint and caulking for outside this summer

Landmarking - BA

- Proposing adding to and expanding scope of landmarking and Nat'l Historic District;
 would like to create an advisory board
- Refer to handout (attached) for objectives, etc.
- CB asked about how a CLG designation would impact any specific buildings
- Welcoming anyone to participate in this committee
- TR will not be signing letter for grants unless RBCHS has seen it in advance
- CB volunteered to act as chair for the committee

Historic Trails and Antiquities - MG

IT - TR, NT, CB

- Minutes are up on website
- Security cameras are installed

Bank Robbers Trail - KB

- Cemetery Board has agreed to provide \$5K for the cemetery development and directional kiosk only
- Rec Center has approved \$500 donation; sign at Circle Park will tie into the rest of the tour
- Discussed signage at Coal Creek School
- New sign idea: swimming pool
- Plan to paint entryway at museum
- Bid from Identity Graphics: \$3,586; does not include frames
- Changing signs at clock tower to be historical

Nominations & Elections Constitution/Bylaws, Policies and Procedures

Committee Alignment

- MOTION to approve MG, LT

CPI Report - TR

- HistoriCorps
- Lots of information about CLG and historic preservation in general
- Copies available
- Rural funding, tax credits, CPace loans are all available, we just need to do the paperwork
- CPI paid for conference fees in exchange for working the conference; made for a much better conference
- Victor, Colo. is supposed to come and visit us in March; they're our sister town in Colorado
- One objective was to find out what we can do to help with the Meeker Hotel; no assessment has been done; we need to do an HSA; need to establish an MOU with the building owners in order to go after funding, think they've already received funding... need to prove the need is not because of deferred care; JS cautious about getting involved in someone else's business unless they want it; BA I think they're interested, if it's not sponsored by us they'll have to pay the full amount; need to have a collaborative agreement because it's a historic designation; TR tax credits are available to them; JS I don't want to see us take on projects that consume energy and resources without promise of results; CB HSA cost? \$10K, but could go higher (JC); working with property owner is important in stewardship of downtown historic district; BA this would be a function of the downtown preservation committee
- BA Received a history of WR National Forest from Joe Livingston, will share
- JS MOTION to table the rest of the agenda and adjourn

ADJOURNED (8:45 p.m.)