

Rio Blanco County Historical Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
Heritage Culture Center

Call to Order: 5:48 p.m.

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

Agenda approval: SL/PA

Public participation:

Terri - Concerns about the way committee members, chairs respond to the board.

- How adaptive are we to change? The things we have always done we need to know about, but we need to stop being stuck.
- The people who came here to this valley did not have an option for learning new things and new skills or we would not be here today. We're going to change, we're going to do it right, and we're going to do it together as a team.
- We need to create corrals... jobs were assigned before we had corrals in place, it no longer works. We need to figure out what those corrals are going to be—timelines, scope of work, expectations.
- We have to work together, cooperate. We have three wagons on that road right now: bank robber's trail, Milk Creek, grants and grant project (national designation project).

Jay - We established the matrix in Excel that has all of that information there.

Kay - Includes anything connected to signage?

Terri - Grant and bank robbery project are in the same wagon right now. We need to remember that we are all on the same road and we need to pull each other along or this organization will fail to exist.

Steve - I can see why our committee chairs have acted as they have in the past—we didn't have the leadership. We do now. We need to regroup and rethink where we're at. Committee chairs may do all the work, but they may not get all the credit.

Terri - We're all going to learn some new things this year. There's no reason why we can't learn and grow and hold tight to our heritage.

Approval of Minutes:

- 2nd page change "then" to "thin"
- SL/NT

Committee Reports:

Museum (LB)

- 247 people through today, 127 kids; last year at the end of May we had 232 with 38 kids; we are increasing
- big mob from Missouri in first thing this morning
- 2 schools, 70 2nd graders from MES, 25 homeschool kids from Steamboat, they are coming back and want to go to Milk Creek and then come back to the museum
- jr. high class from Savory (?) spent the day at Milk Creek
- LeisureWest tours rep. will be in touch with Jay, they want to bring a tour group in here

- Jay: Would be interested in going along on Milk Creek tours
- sold \$378 of stuff from the gift shop; will have to go back through some of our sales to correct sales of This is What I remember should go to the RBCHS account instead of the gift shop account
- RBC maintenance dept. has been paying some attention to us; repaired boiler... according to the plumber it was still economically feasible to replace parts, changed out the 30 gal. hot water heater for a mini one.
- had a leak in the water pipe above the men's restroom; got the water turned off (Doc and Jay) and county came and repaired the leak; kind of concerned about lack of floor drain
- county came in and replaced the ballasts and bulbs in room 6 so we have light
- had a donation today from Paul Anderson, several old photo albums that belonged to Earl Anderson, most of those people it's not noted who they were but he thought Ellen Reichert might now (Dr. Anderson from upriver)
- moving some things around in the kitchen (room 2)
- applications for the advertised job: Kathy Thorsby or Claude Wood preferred candidates
- Lee missed work Sunday again; fortunately I was here with my grandchildren; don't know how much longer I'll be able to keep Doc, I fear for his retention of some things

Lighting: (BA)

- no change from last meeting

Accessions: (LM)

(see above)

Bank Robbers Trail: (KB)

- spoke with MicroPlastics in Rifle, they have worked with the Rifle and Silt historical societies for signs; quote would be about \$4000 for all signs we need, does not include price of frames

HCC: (TR)

- window sign is completed
- lighting (BA) - still communicating with Wayne Pleasants; high school may be getting rid of old theatrical lighting, possibility of acquiring that, rest would be design; project for June is to get with Wayne and get that straightened out

Milk Creek: (JR)

- skid steer is being serviced, when that's done we'll be ready to dig holes
- county willing to bring gravel on Tuesday/Thursday, need a day's notice
- email from Randy Llewellyn, trying to get the forgotten soldiers of Milk Creek recognized and moved; Dept. of Army responded and said soldiers were interred according to the rules and regulations of the time
- brought a couple in to see the signs from Denver
- TR: Stephanie called from the chamber and said there's a group coming to Ute Lodge to dance sometime in June, were hoping they might show up for Meekerpalooza, it's not from Ft. Duchesne Utes, it's from Southern Utes in Durango; wanted us to pay \$1,000 for them to be here
- JB: I didn't want to go to war, in my time you were drafted and you went; I went and signed up so I could choose where I was going; spent 2 years in Korea in the war there
- JS: thank you for your service, because what you did makes it possible for all of us to live here and enjoy this country
- TR: garrison and outdoor museum needs to be added to the agenda/yard and garrison need to be added to the reports; tour next month
- JB: It's coming along fine. Gate is fixed, trees pruned, fixed weathered sign, hung big sign out front; jacking up all the wagons and fixing some of the wheels

- PA: we got another showcase from the fire department and will get wheels put on Sunday

History Lives: (JS)

- need to pick a date

Website: (BA)

- Kasey is reformatting everything, at some point he and Brandon and I will get together
- TR: he sent an email this afternoon that says he is exactly on schedule

Meeker Mustang Makeover: (Deirdre Macnab)

- ranch is in the midst of the Piceance mustang range, there are 1000 head where there should be 200; in danger of overpopulation
- inspired by story of Chincoteague islands; had an overpopulation problem of ponies, fire department swam the ponies across, now visitors come to see the ponies and adopt some
- contacted Maym Cunningham (Meeker Classic) — Friday night at the sheepdog trials at the fairgrounds horse trainers will compete; idea is that this would be a pilot project; BLM was interested; if this is a success, we would do this on an annual basis and would begin with a gather; this year we were given 6 mustangs from Piceance Basin that were being held, we have trainers lined up, horses will be picked up June 1; trainer Steve Mantle is coming
- twofold idea: create an idea that could be an economic driver and an educational opportunity to talk about the history of the mustangs, esp. in RBC
- have assembled an advisory board; Meeker Mustang Makeover movie on Facebook; 100 horses, 100 days; we're doing the same thing... trainers have 100 days to train the horses, then compete, men vs. women, prize money
- looking for a group to act as an umbrella to accept sponsorships to be used for prize money; we want to trademark the name; file for 501c3
- planning to charge \$5 at the gate, concessions 4-H kids, donations, keep it as simple as we can this year,
- SL: legally, the prize money how that would go through our 501c3?
- DM: federal gov't just changed; announced people who adopt a wild horse will get \$500 after 2 months and another \$500 at the end of a year; trainers all have the opportunity to win a portion of \$4000 in prize money; horses will be auctioned that evening and trainers will receive 50% of the auction price
- SL: at one time the Lions Club hosting Bingo prize money, that got shot down
- TR: it's going to be a dance
- SL moved to support MMM however we can until they achieve 501c3 status, after that we'll ask them to be part of our board as a new committee; PA second

Coal Creek School: (TR)

- donation box is just awaiting a hinge

Grant apps: (BA)

- went to rec district, got \$500; town of Meeker, got \$1500; going to the cemetery district to formalize agreement; sum total is \$6500 toward the \$10K; BoCC deigned not to give any money; Sandra B. is going to donate \$500; possibly ask for individual contributions from people getting the signs; possibilities with WREA, upriver ranches and other locals to create the \$10K we need for a match
- TR - need to figure out how to get all our teams in front of Bob's wagon; do a small version of "this place matters" to go out and meet with property owners, take a picture, etc. to raise awareness
- BA: would like to have a group to take Carl McWilliams work and meet with the property owners; most of the one's I've talked to are very much in agreement
- JS: This Place Matters didn't they do a map? That becomes a handout for people who come to the museum.

- TR: We have the material for that in Carl McWilliams plan; needs to be implemented in June
- KB: I hear all this but I need to have it in a written form
- TR: I don't think we built our foundation properly; much of this work should have been done before the grant was due
- JS: My objection, I would like to see some of the things at Milk Creek finalized and finished, and I'm concerned that too much time would be undertaken for a new project
- BA: propose a brainstorming session; here's where we are, here's what we need to do, put together a timeline from that
- JS: problem isn't what Bob needs to do and accomplish, it's what we all need to do; we need a good marketing plan that is supported by the people we hire to help us market what we do
- JS: motion to create a marketing plan that helps us facilitate closure of all of our projects
- SL: we do need someone on staff who can focus on all of this and start pulling this together; we need the right staff; we have an opportunity with at least one of our recommended applicants who is very computer literate; we can't rely on volunteers forever
- BA: county should fund a tourism director for RBC
- TR: We need to work together with other entities, not the county
- BA: we need to get a website that focuses on heritage tourism, agritourism, and links to all the other things
- TR: moving forward, is the motion still on the table?
- JS: last practical meeting before the 4th of July, is everything taken care of for that large event?
- TR: horse and team, tour of Milk Creek (needs schedule), root beer floats, Jay narrating
- BA: table this for a brainstorming session some time in June for anyone interested to discuss all the grant-related project (signage/bank robbery tour)
- TR: will coordinate that

New Business:

Old Timers Video - This is what I remember?

- TR will be taking videos;

Placemaking

- Town of Meeker and planning session, Kay's project is part of that planning design

Cost of picture hangers

- will come out of signs budget; \$2,345 and need to buy two more pieces, another \$200
- paid for out of the general fund
- other entities may be interested in using this as an art gallery
- SL moved, JS second — all funds out of HCC

SL - Personnel

- an employee only available for 1.5 days employment should not continue
- TR: we will phase him out
- SL moved to hired Claude WOOD and Kathy Thorsby for part time positions at museum, JS seconded

BA: can the RBCHS contribute to the grant match

SL: We're putting in a lot of in-kind with the grant itself

Tabled the rest of the new business for the next meeting

Move to adjourn at 8:11 (JS/KB)