

Rio Blanco County Historical Society Board Meeting

September 30th, 2021

Attendance: Terri Reed, Kevyn Mack, Kay Bivens, Jay Sullivan, Chance Walker, Niki Turner, Nancy Richardson, Emily Mohr

Call to Order 5:45

Additions to the Agenda –

- Begin the development of an employee handbook
- Planning for Halloween and Quarterly Meeting

Approval of Agenda after Additions – Chance motion, Jay second. Approved.

Approval of Minutes – Jay motion, Chance second. Approved.

Public Participation –

Barb, Ron Forberg, Jan, Karen Lucas in attendance for personal testimony as character witnesses for Terri Reed. No opposition in attendance.

Executive Report – Terri Reed

- Museum attended 14 days of events this summer, and are now in a slower spot and ready to get back to needs in the museum.
- Barb is working on the data entry and proper recording of all items in museum.
- Garrison is being deep cleaned and organized.
- Gift shop is in good shape, a new book recommended by Jay's friend has been secured
- Art show currently up in the Heritage Center, Open house for the art show is on the 16th of next month, also first day of hunting season so hopeful for more out of town attendees
- Possibility for youth artists from the high school to do senior shows, also working towards full calendar of artist shows for the next year.
- Looking to build the historical events that happen at the museum and culture center, documentaries shown as movie nights, etc.

- Financial report – provided to all members. In a great place after summer fundraising events
- Raised \$1800 from selling root beer floats, ice tea and water this summer.
- Going before the county commissioners to show what all we have been doing and hopefully secure our normal funding for next year.
- Reading through some historical grants, Colorado Gives is coming up in December.
- Possibility of gaining state lottery funds for money for Milk Creek Battlefield site.
- Forges will be coming in very near future.
- Working with new people from CNCC and AmeriCorps volunteers to get more classes and instructors for historical classes in Meeker.
- 125th Anniversary of the Bank Robbery, original article of the event will be printed in the paper again that week, word for word.

Accessions – Kay Bivens

- Working on deaccessioning several old stoves to someone who will restore them and use them, but there are also no records from when they were donated. Working with what we can find.

Capturing Our Culture – Sparky Pappas

- Idea presented – what is unique about your connection to Meeker? Methods to ask the proper questions about their stories to keep them local and relevant.
- Henry English has video tapes from the 140th anniversary of the Milk Creek Battle, including recordings of testimony from the Utes about their experiences, and is offering to donate them to the museum.

Rural Schools – Janet Clark/ Terri Reed

- Ellen is getting the roof of the Coal Creek School oiled and looking at adding the museum buildings.
- Maybe we can ask for high school volunteers for help? – Museum maybe, school no because of steep pitch of roof and fall risk.

- Will be speaking to the county for help from their employees for work on the schools.

Milk Creek Battlefield – Jay Sullivan

- 30 pages into writing the script, this time from the voice and perspective of a soldier on the battlefield.
- Looking into creative arts grants that may be able to help with possible filming and production. Possible partnership with MACC?
- Was the 142nd anniversary of the Milk Creek Battle this week!

Website – Niki Turner

- Needs a sit down together to figure out next steps and new additions.

Bank Robbers Trail – Kay Bivens

- Working on getting up the silhouettes in time for the 125th celebration of the Bank Robbery
- Getting updated changes to the signage up to the cemetery board for approval.
- We will be in contact with the Rec Center about a possible collaboration
- Signage design will be done with Caitlin, probably after the first of the year
- Working on getting the copyrights to the historical photos used on the signs.

Meeker Arts and Cultural Council – Nancy Richardson

- Finished up the first adult theater performance over the summer, Something Rotten
- Kids play, Buggy Malone, through the elementary school for the fall, performances in November
- Art classes are going well, every other Thursday through November at the Heritage Center
- We have worked out a cleaning schedule for each week after the classes

Meeker Mustang Makeover – Deirdre McNab

Tabled.

Main Street Project 45 – Niki Turner

- Received the final word on the Open for Business Grant that the town applied for, we were not one of the chosen communities to receive aid.
- Currently working on yearly schedule of projects expected for next year.

Old Business – None

New Business –

- No executive session required.
- Need a new committee for creating an employee handbook for future legal purposes
- Chance will start committee, consult Terri for tweaks and advice, and present at next board meeting for board approval.

Quarterly Meeting –

- Night at the Museum theme
- Historical Character Costume Contest
- Saturday, October 30th, 2 – 4pm
- Then Pumpkin Eats N Treats

Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session for 2 minutes

- Jay motion, Nancy second. Approved.

Motion to end Executive Session

- Nancy motion, Jay second. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned

Chance motion. All second. Approved.

Next Meeting, Quarterly Meeting October 30th, 2:00 pm.