

**Meeting Minutes of the Executive  
Committee of the Board of Directors of  
the Arizona Historical Society**

**November 13, 2023**

*Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.*

**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order** – By President Linda Elliott-Nelson at 12:03pm
- 2. Roll Call** – Secretary Deborah Bateman
  - a. Present – Robert Ballard, Desirae Barquin (joined during the closed session), Deborah Bateman, DeNise Bauer, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Thomas Foster, Linda Whitaker, Bruce Gwynn
  - b. Absent – Jim Snitzer
  - c. Staff – David Breeckner, Melba Davis, Rebekah Tabah-Percivel, Vince Bradley
- 3. Minutes** – The minutes of the October 23, 2023 and November 6, 2023 Executive Committee meetings were approved. (Linda Whitaker, Robert Ballard)
- 4. Call to the Public** – Linda Elliott-Nelson
  - a. No members of the public present.
- 5. Bill Ponder Contract Review.** David Breeckner shared that Bill Ponder has been acting as a Special Projects Coordinator to address activities in Tempe and address a new site facility in Tucson for 2053 when the current location is no longer available. In Tucson, Bill Ponder has identified local partners and desirable sites. More advocacy and work are needed. Bill Ponder added that the current projects are doing surprisingly well. He has identified multiple sites and has visited stakeholders and interested parties. There has been no negative pushback. All the incumbents on the Tucson City Council are familiar with AHS.  
  
David Breeckner stated that Bill Ponder's current part-time equivalent contract was for 6 months and around \$25,000. The recommendation is to extend Bill Ponder's contract throughout the fiscal year and increase his hours to accomplish the tasks needed. This would be a 7-month contract (through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2024) at 32 hours weekly to not increase a total of \$48,730.00.  
  
Deborah Bateman asked if the funds for this contract were budgeted. David Breeckner answered that no, this contract is being paid out of reserves.

The motion was made to extend Bill Ponder’s contract for an additional 7 months through the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2024) for an amount not to exceed \$48,730.00. (Linda Whitaker, Bruce Gwynn) Motion was approved.

**6. Discussion: Staff Recruitment and Retention**

**a. Executive Session**

i. Start at 12:15pm. End at 1:04pm.

b. **Action Item** – The motion was made for the Executive Committee to approve retention bonuses for 28 AHS positions at an amount of \$59,629.55, subject to approval by Human Resources. (Linda Whitaker, Bruce Gwynn)

Deborah Bateman asked if management endorses this motion. David Breeckner said that yes, management endorses this motion, and added that this action is part of the ongoing conversation on sustainability of AHS.

Motion approved.

**7. November State Board Meeting** – Linda Elliott-Nelson noted that due to correspondence from board members that there was a concern of not meeting a quorum with the full board on the originally scheduled full board meeting the day after Thanksgiving, November 24, 2023. Instead, she suggested that the scheduled Executive Committee meeting on November 27, 2023 at noon be changed to a full board meeting. A motion was made to change the full board meeting to November 27, 2023, at 12pm. (Linda Whitaker, Tom Foster) Motion was approved.

**8. Announcements** and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings.

a. No announcements.

**9. Adjournment** – 1:10pm by Linda Elliott-Nelson

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

Arizona Historical Society

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Linda Elliott-Nelson, Board President

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Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings

Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

Click the date to register for the meeting; all meetings are hosted are live-streamed via Zoom

Upcoming State Board Meetings

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