

Rio Colorado Chapter Board Meeting

October 8, 2019

Minutes

Present: Cathy Reeves, JP Mahon, Bruce Gwynn, Kathi Marcus, Tom Rushin, Betsy Gottspooner, Pete Thompson, Cecilia Young, Linda Morgan

Absent: Shara Whitehead, Amanda Mahon, Lenore Stuart

Call to Order: 6:25pm

Call to the Public: No response

Approval of June 11, 2019 minutes. Pete Thompson moved to approved, Bruce Gwynn seconded, approved with no changes.

President's Remarks: None

Discussion and/or possible action:

Cathy Reeves provided update on Molina Block Restoration and Reuse Project. Kevin Eatherly, project manager, has prepared a basic organizational overview. Fowler Malone drafted restroom concept/plans. Testing of building stability will be completed as part of the project. All information will be prepared and presented for Board review in approximately three months. Cathy spoke of plans to approach local rotary/philanthropic groups to request funding support and described opportunities for grants with grant writing support from the City of Yuma, Tina Clark, and the AHS grant writer. Cathy Reeves voiced interest in connecting building planning with exterior ag museum planning for a cohesive collective project.

Mary Campbell reminded group of need to focus on exterior ag museum.

Yanna Kruse stated that project was funded by Friends of AHS and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. This is a fact-finding project to serve as a basis for future decisions.

Rio Colorado Chapter Report: Yanna Kruse updated Board on staffing, facility/technology enhancements, programming, community donations/support, and upcoming events. The Yuma County Historical Society was thanked for providing funding for a new refrigerator and music licensing at the Sanguinetti House Museum. A request was made to YCHS to approve transfer of previously approved funding for exhibit opening ceremony to fundraising event, Mystery Night at the Museum. Approved by YCHS.

National Heritage Area Update: Tom Rushin stated the Yuma Territorial Prison gained national recognition as “#1 Most Haunted” site by *USA Today*. The Heritage Area continues to secure federal funding, with bipartisan support. Major work has been completed surrounding policy development, adopting new/updated policies for credit cards, travel, privacy, and other key areas. A study of bylaws is planned. Long-term Heritage Area Board Member, Julie Engle stepped down from the Board. Her position will be filled by another individual working with the Greater Yuma Economic Development Commission.

Announcements and matters for consideration at future Board Meetings: None

For the Good of the Order: Kathi Marcus asked about Crossroads Mission event at the Molina Block. Linda Morgan spoke of Ag and Art events planned during upcoming year and at the Sanguinetti House/Molina Block. Ticket sales for history dinners organized by Visit Yuma, with guest speakers Tina Clark and Cathy Reeves, are going well.