

Rio Colorado Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting

June 27, 2023

Yuma County Main Library

2951 S. 21st Drive

Yuma, Arizona 85364

And on Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** 6:03 pm by Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Bruce Gwynn, Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, Tom Rushin, Betsy Gotsponer , Monica Ketchum-Cardenas, Sheridan Osborn, Thelma Lundy, Sue Ann Willen

Absent: Faron Owl, Dr. Ellen Riek, Tom Rush, Emilia Cortez

3. **Call to the Public:** Betsy Gotsponer mentioned the highway sign listing the Yuma Territorial Prison and asked what would be involved in including the Sanguinetti House and Gardens on this sign.

4. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes for the May 18, 2023, and May 23, 2023, Rio Colorado Chapter (RCC) Board of Directors meeting were approved. (Bruce Gwynn, Monica Ketchum-Cardenas)

3. **President's Remarks:** Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson thanked everyone for being present and continued to discuss the RCC 2023-2024 goals and objectives.

4. **Consideration of RCC goals for 2023-2024.** The following annual goals to be considered as joint annual goals for the RCC and the Yuma County Historical Society (YCHS) were discussed:

- a. Support for the design and construction of the Ag Museum in the Molina Block.

- b. Support for adding an affiliate museum to the Arizona Historical Society Certified Historical Institutions list from the Yuma area.

c. Include at least two student presentations in the upcoming year to RCC and YCHS board meetings.

d. Research including a video presentation from a history expert that could be available and accessible to the public.

e. Research conducting a project providing historic plaques for buildings in Yuma that have not yet received historic plaques.

f. Research providing a lunch and speech in the Sanguinetti House and Gardens Museum area for tourist buses passing through Yuma.

g. Research conducting a scavenger hunt including places around Yuma downtown that are historical.

h. Research putting together a walking tour for downtown historic Yuma.

Discussion: Bruce Gwynn mentioned that these goals will involve the creation of committees to get these accomplished. Tom Rushin mentioned that several Yuma buildings have historic plaques in downtown Yuma. Bruce added that there are cities that include a QR code on the historic plaque that enables people to hear an audio description of the history of the building. Sheridan Osborn added her support for the historic plaques and QR codes that could include a video and photo as well as description of the historic building. There were general comments made with appreciation of the student speaker, Mily Canela, who spoke about the history of wedding chapels in the Yuma area at the annual meeting in May. Linda Elliott-Nelson mentioned that there are other student presentations available.

The motion was approved for these 2023-2024 joint annual goals for RCC and the Yuma County Historical Society (YCHS). (Bruce Gwynn, Betsy Gotsponer)

5. Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area: The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area under Cathy Douglas is actively involved in the downtown Yuma area and in collaborating with partners. There is interest in inviting Cathy Douglas to speak with RCC and YCHS Board members.

6. Announcements and matters for consideration at future board meetings.

Future meetings: 6/27/23 – Summer Recess; 9/26/23 – RCC Board Meeting at 5:30 pm at the Yuma Main Library; 10/24/23 – RCC Board Meeting at the Yuma Main Library.

Kathi Marcus mentioned that the blue sign in the parking lot by the Sanguinetti House and Gardens includes arrows pointing the wrong way to the Sanguinetti House. Kathi will contact the City of Yuma to see what could be done to correct the sign.

The RCC Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Dr. Linda Elliott-Nelson, President of the Rio Colorado Chapter Board

The RCC of the Arizona Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the administration of its program and services as prescribed by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, or alternative formats, by contacting AHS-Yuma at 928-782-1842. Request should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.