

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

February 26, 2024

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

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – by Vice President DeNise Bauer at 12:11pm
2. **Roll Call** – Secretary Deborah Bateman
 - a. Present – Linda Whitaker, Desirae Barquin, DeNise Bauer, Jim Sntizer
 - b. Absent – Linda Elliott-Nelson, Deborah Bateman, Robert Ballard, Tom Foster, Bruce Gwynn, Melba Davis, Sebastian Alt
 - c. Staff – David Breeckner, Rebekah Tabah, Vince Bradley, Jace Dostal, Marianna Touloumes, Vanessa Fajardo, Salessia McGowan, Rachael O’Hara
3. **Discussion** and action, if any, to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held January 22, 2024. [Click here to view.](#)
 - a. No motion or vote made due to a lack of quorum.
4. **Call to the Public** – DeNise Bauer
 - a. No response.
5. **Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens Update (SHM)** – David Breeckner
 - a. Discussion
 - i. HB-2427 and SB-1441 are concurrent bills that have been introduced in the AZ legislature to divest AHS’ Yuma properties to the City of Yuma. Both bills are advancing through the legislature and are meeting with unanimous support; SB-1441 has cleared a floor vote. If either is enacted, it would require the transfer 15 days after the bill goes live. This would occur 90 days after the close of the current legislative session.
 - ii. AHS was contacted by OSPB for a financial review of the impact of this transfer; AHS is prepared to submit its response on 2/27/24. The response will include both financial data but also a narrative that frames any cost-savings from the Yuma property transfers as a reallocation of appropriated funds to cover existing costs elsewhere within the agency. OSPB agrees with this presentation. In its response, AHS will voice its support for both bills despite that an official vote has never been made by the AHS Board or Executive Committee to determine the agency’s formal position.

1. This financial breakdown considers recurring staffing costs, annual operating costs, and outstanding/deferred maintenance projects.
 2. Linda Whitaker requested a copy of the report for the AHS Finance Committee. David Breeckner confirmed that it would be shared.
- b. **Proposed Action Item** to acknowledge HB 2427 and benefits to the agency and provide requested information and help as needed to the House or Governor's Office.
- i. No motion or vote made due to a lack of quorum.
 - ii. This will be re-introduced at the March ExComm meeting, if the bills are still active and not yet finalized.

6. Director's Update

- a. Staff recruitment & retention
 - i. 2 new hires: Leonard Moody (NHD Coordinator, Tucson) and Chris Bradley (JAH editor, Tempe)
 - ii. Interviews underway for other positions, including Facility Rentals Coordinator (Tempe) and Business Development Manager (Tempe)
 - iii. AHS staff working with the Finance Committee to develop and share a FY25 revised budget to reallocate Yuma cost savings and support new positions & staff salary reinvestment. This will be presented to the Board in March.
- b. Pioneer Museum: notice of action
 - i. AHS received notice that NAPHS has obtained legal services for their dispute with AHS over its management/storage locality of its northern AZ collections and archives.
 1. Linda Whitaker asked what percentage of AHS' northern archives are in Tempe vs at the Cline Library (NAU). Rebekah answered that photo archives are in Tempe; the manuscript collections remain at the Cline.
 - ii. AHS will provide the Board with additional details as this develops; it is not presently directly speaking to NAPHS due to their legal representation.
- c. Contracts: Historical League, Friends of AHS, YCHS
 - i. Work is underway with the Historical League and Friends to update their contracts. Both hope to be executed by the end of March.
 - ii. A template contract has been shared with the Committee for its consideration. Contracts are generally standardized, but tailored to reflect individual functions & needs of the Support Group in its relationship with AHS.
 1. DeNise asked where the Historical League is located; David answered that they are based in Tempe.
 - iii. YCHS' has not yet been distributed with YCHS for their review.
- d. Historical League donation

- i. The Historical League has approved a donation of 1,020 copies of its “Tastes & Treasures II” cookbooks to AHS for their use as promotional items for the CHI program, AHS gift shop, and as part of its upcoming Legislative Outreach efforts.
 - e. AHS Statehood Day/Week
 - i. 2/10 through 2/17 was AHS Statehood week, with free admission throughout. In total, over 1,000 people attended across both sites.
 - ii. This week was benchmarked with free public events at AHM Tucson on 2/10 and at AHC Tempe on 2/17.
 - f. Out of Office notice: 2/20 - 2/23
- 7. **Announcements** and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings.
 - a. DeNise confirmed that Douglas Historical Society returned its executed lease agreement with AHS for their continued lease in the Douglas Williams House.
- 8. **Adjournment** by DeNise Bauer at 12:31pm.

Dated on this 11th day of March 2024.

Arizona Historical Society

Linda Elliott-Nelson, Board President

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 Administration at 520-617-1169. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings

Noon and Virtual via Zoom unless announced otherwise

Please use the following link as a hyperlink to solicit online registrations. It has been set up to work (individually) for all Executive Committee meetings in 2024.

• <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc-2hqDlsG9QarPDKi819C7uUohXboP9Q>

Meeting Dates:

March 26, 2024
April 29, 2024
May 20, 2024
June 24, 2024
July 22, 2024
August 26, 2024
September 23, 2024
October 28, 2024
November 25, 2024
December 30, 2024 (to be discussed)

Upcoming State Board Meetings

Noon and Virtual via Zoom unless announced otherwise

Please use the following link as a hyperlink to solicit online registrations. It has been set up to work (individually) for all State Board meetings in 2024.

• <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-2opj4qHNEcUWuowtZ2nJI5HaZEciYX>

Meeting Dates:

March 29, 2024
May 31, 2024
July 26, 2024
September 27, 2024
December 6, 2024