

CENTRAL ARIZONA CHAPTER – ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Historical Society and to the general public that the Arizona Historical Society Central Arizona Chapter Board will hold a regularly scheduled board meeting, open to the public, at the AHS Museum at Papago Park.

Date: Friday August 26, 2016
Time: Noon
Location: Boardroom- AHS Museum at Papago Park
1300 N. College Ave., Tempe, Arizona

MINUTES

Members present: Kelly Corsette, Shelly Dudley, Larry Woolson, Arv Schultz; Telephonic: Don Nordlund, Billy Walker

Staff: Tawn Downs

Guests: Valerie Adams

1. Call to Order/Introduction of the Board and Guests/Declaration of Quorum Called to order. Called to order at 12:09, lacking quorum
2. Call to the Public for Comments: none
3. Appointments/Resignations/Oath of Office: none
4. Approval or Modification of Board Minutes: no quorum, minutes not approved
5. AHS Staff Report. Downs: Presentation of Central Division Current Organizational Structure. There are 8 staff with 2 as facility staff; 5 to work on the museum exhibits, events, tours, sales, marketing, taking care of the collections. With this staff, the AZ Heritage Center Newsletter sent out under the new name, as an email. In the July report, visitor attendance exceeded last year's number for the month of July. The summer program, Amazing Arizona Kids, had a lot of activities, almost 300 kids in June and July. The Transportation Exhibit was opened. On September 27 an exhibit will open for the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary. At Work in Arizona will open on October 27 in association with Alliance Bank, celebrating Arizona businesses. Bill Harrison will give presentations on early mining days in September. In October, Marshall Shore will give a presentation on signs of our times, focusing on neon signs. On November 3 will be an Arizona Storyteller's event. Arizona Women's History Symposium will be in the Fall. The Arizona Non-Profit Association meeting will be coming up at the AZ Heritage Center. Downs is asking for help so that we can accomplish more. Handed out sheet showing the needs for funding priorities: a curator to work on exhibits; education curator and a marketing manager. Discussion on the use of interns for exhibits, events, educational programming and marketing and promotion. The cost of the additional salaries for 3 new positions, is about \$180,000. Funds are also needed to upgrade and repair the facility: need air conditioning for Pavilion (currently unusable so facility can't be used for wedding

events). Bids to repair the HVAC range from \$24 to \$56,000. There is a possibility to use a workaround with a chiller line. Upgrades in the auditorium are needed, including new carpet for sound purposes, paint the floor, numbers on the chairs for fund raising and the stage is not ADA compliant. The estimate of these repairs is \$35,000. Other improvements needed at the facility include changes to lighting at a cost of \$40,000. To improve the rental equipment, tables, coverings: \$6000. There is also a Wish list for landscaping, outside improvement including lighting: \$135,000 estimate.

Corsette: Downs has an excellent reputation with the State Legislators. We have a director that is getting things done and now is the time for the Board to support and work for the AZ Heritage Center. Downs will give some specific information on the state of things and at the meeting what the Board can do.

Downs: From fire, the roof needs to be replaced, but the State of Arizona will pay. There is a need to do a major overhaul of the exhibits, particularly on the second floor: subject matter and way of presentation. The exhibits need to engage people more (some with technology, but needs to tell a story). Staff is going through the current exhibits, when technology no longer works, has been repaired, replaced or removed; refreshing, new labeling; fresh look – what stories should be told. Some museums hire a consultant to aid with new exhibits. Are we capable of a major fund raising campaign – needs to be done if we are going to get 50,000 people to the museum. Valerie Adams asked if AZ Heritage Center has approached ASU and the Public History Program to get assistance. Downs is meeting with ASU next week. Downs said in the first year 30,000 people; currently 3,000 for museum; 12,000 for events. Schultz: transportation is important, but the exhibit does not tell the whole story.

Downs: Identify specific needs from the Board, without their assistance, it will be difficult to get things done; possibly change some of the Board members to those who want to take an active part.

What is needed:

1. Museum Resources (WORKING GROUP): Workgroup to identify programing for this museum and our vision, sharing AZ history, for school children, tours or Saturday programs.
 - a. Need speakers, suggestions, need a focused to identify speakers that with be appropriate, available, fee for presentation; do we charge; can we schedule
 2. Working groups can include people not on the board
 - a. Would like to get 3 speakers a month
 3. Grants Workshop (not a lot of people have this expertise) – this will pay off if we do it right (Linda Whitaker already working on grants for Library) Corsette needs to figure out if the Casinos have grants and how to apply. Working with Taliesin West on a grant
 4. Outreach and fundraising (WORKING GROUP): need a group of qualified individuals to decide if we should run a fundraising campaign or hire someone to do
 5. Event Planning (WORKING GROUP): Just put on the calendar, AZHC Jazz and Blues Fest on April 1 & 2, need to do a lot of reporting, marketing, etc.
6. Historical League Report: none
7. President's Report
- a. AZ in the 80s event update. After discussing with staff and board members, the event will be on hold
 - b. Sept. 23 meeting, overall direction on the Board. At State AHS Board meeting last month, publicly questioned the AZ Heritage Center purpose. A reminder that we are not looked upon favorably. Attendance is poor. Corsette and Downs talked about

adding value to the Museum and for the CAC Board. We need to focus on specific tasks and goals within the next year.

- c. Annual meeting in October: Rotate Board members, less about history and more about helping museum.
 - d. Have Board members on each of the workgroups, expecting them to participate; less Board meetings, but more getting together on the work groups.
 - e. Not asking the Board for money, but getting help opening the doors; need a more diverse board.
8. Treasurer's report
- a. 1107 fund balance: July 1: 10,569.32; Revenue \$475. No Expenses. Ending balance \$11044.32
9. Announcements and Other Matters for Consideration next meetings, Sept. 23; October 28; Valerie Adams interested in joining.
10. Adjournment at 1:16 pm

Submitted by Shelly C. Dudley, Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance would be appreciated.

Our bylaws state that we need a quorum to conduct official business. A quorum is a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

**Please call Tawn Downs 480-387-5368 if you are unable to attend.

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, by contacting the Museum Director Tawn Downs at 480-387-5368. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. This document is available in alternative formats upon request

AHS: Staff