

**Arizona Historical Society
Southern Arizona Chapter Board Meeting
May 3, 2021**

Present: Bill Cavaliere, Yvonne Clay, Brook Grobosky, Craig McEwan, Mark O'Hare, and Jim Sell

Absent: Ralph Wong and Bob Vint

Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer Bill Ponder, Vice President of Finance and Operations Kim Bittrich, Human Resources Procurement Officer Melba Davis, and Statewide Museum Collections Manager Trish Norman

Guests Present: Linda Head and Vicki Schwager

Call to Order

President Craig McEwan called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum declared.

Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the April 15, 2021, Chapter Board Meeting were unanimously approved after a motion from Yvonne Clay and seconded Bill Cavaliere.

USAM 21161 Fund Report

Kim Bittrich gave a report on the funds. Kim stated that \$32,000.00 was still in the account. Work is done on Otero Porch but not paid for. That will cost approximately \$3,700.00

Committee on 1107 Funding

Jim Sell reported on the recommendations of the committee. It was unanimously recommended that the HEPA vacuum, exhibit cases, and vinyl cutter be approved. Other items on proposal such as space suit transportation and audio system needed more info or questions answered. It was the unanimous decision of the committee that the painting of the lobby was not critical since it has been recently painted. It was further recommended that two other projects be considered: 1.) stabilizing and needed structural repairs and 2.) brick work in the patio to eliminate the risk to injury present because of the uneven brick walkway.

Old Business

- A.** Yvonne reported that she had just received the estimate from Durazo Construction for Sosa Carrillo House. She briefly described itemized work and pricing.
- B.** President McEwan asked Bill Ponder about update on \$600,000.00 grant prepared by the City of Tucson Mayor's Office to the Office of Housing and Urban Development to renovate the Sosa Carrillo House. Mr. Ponder stated that he had not heard anything further.
- C.** Discussion and action, if any, of financing projects for the Tucson History Museum and other AHS projects. Jim Sell moved to fund the HEPA vacuum, exhibit cases, and vinyl cutter. Brook Grobosky seconded the motion. It was passed with one dissenting vote. Jim Sell moved, asking AHS staff for more information on the remaining proposed items of AHS for the use of the 1107 funds. Brook Grobosky seconded that motion. This motion was passed unanimously.
- D.** Discussion and action, if any, on the appointment of Jim Sell to the State AHS Board. Jim stated that he still had not been contacted. There was discussion of guidelines.

New Business

- A.** Discussion and action, if any, with i.) lack of acknowledged by AHS executives with regard to mediation over spending authority, and ii.) the inability of AHS staff to provide codified documentation supporting the charge that SAC cannot initiate spending projects for AHS properties and

interests. Craig read the email he had sent to Director Burns and Board President Whitaker. He stated he had sent it on April 19, 2021, but had not heard from either Director Burns or President Whitaker. Through discussion among Board members, it was felt that there really had not been a collaborative process used for these funds. Bill Ponder stated that President Whitaker had contacted him and given him authority to participate in mediation on behalf the AHS proposals. President McEwan stated that we would follow upon the mediation. Bill Ponder stated that he, as representative of AHS to our chapter Board meetings did not have a place on the agenda to provide info or collaborate. It was agreed that from this point forward that his report would be an item on the agenda. Craig stated that two years ago, we had AHS staff helping to prepare for these Chapter meetings and that it was a much more collaborative approach. The Chapter Board has had at least six AHS staff members assigned to be the AHS liaison to the Chapter Board over the past 2 ½ years. Further discussion involved the involvement of the Chapter Board in spending projects. Bill Ponder stated again that he would not be willing to approve work on the Sosa-Carrillo House. He stated that the Chapter Board's request for the use of 1107 funds on the Sosa-Carrillo House would not be approved because preparing for work on the Sosa-Carrillo House had not been done appropriately: AHS had not been involved in the process and that tenants of the property needed to have come to AHS staff, not to the Chapter Board, with a request. It was asked by Jim Sell that, due to potential additional damage during monsoons, would Bill Ponder be willing to continue dialogue regarding funding work on that building. Bill Ponder agreed to that request.

Call to the Public

Linda Head asked to speak to the Board. She referred to statements made by Bill Ponder in the April 15, 2021, SAC meeting where Board members asked about parking privileges in the parking garage. Bill Ponder stated that according to the agreement selling some of the property for that garage to the U of A, as he remembers it, allows for parking privileges of Museum staff and visitors in perpetuity. Linda shared a document that was part of the State Board member packet preparing for the August 2020 meeting titled "AHS Property Survey." This document states that, according to the agreement, AHS would have parking rights

in the garage for 30 years (ending in 2024), and after that there would not be parking available for the Arizona History Museum. Bill Ponder stated that he knew nothing about the document. He requested that Linda Head send the document to him so that he could look into it. Linda also questioned the hiring of a Phoenix company instead of accepting the bid of a Tucson based company for significantly less for the same work on the Otero Porch done as part of an approved grant. The Chapter's 1107 funds were the matching funds for that grant. Bill Ponder stated that he would follow-up and get the information to Linda Head.

Vicki Schwager asked to speak to the Board. She suggested that we should look forward rather than backward if AHS would like to have the advice and input from the Chapter Board and community.

Announcements

President McEwan announced the next Chapter Board meeting would be Monday, May 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig McEwan



Craig McEwan, President