

Rio Blanco County Historical Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019
5:53 p.m. Heritage Culture Center

Call to Order: 5:53 p.m.

In attendance: TR, SL, NT, JS, TL, BL, JC, KB, BA, LM, SB

SL move, NT 2nd to approve agenda as presented

BA

Lighting: Still waiting to hear from expert

KB

Accessions: Nothing

Museum: Libby

- January 85 adults, 5 kiddos; last year 51 and 5; visitation growing
- Feb to this date, 83 and 20 as opposed to 48 and 9
- Jan deposit: \$75 for Sue Hicken memorial and a \$35 for Bob Crawford memorial; \$490 of membership; received \$21K from county and \$100 from WREA
- Feb gift shop account: \$136 check for T-shirts and cups; nothing is ordered or contemplated at this time; balance in that account of \$3649.49; \$97.52 petty cash
- Jan sold \$53.35
- The kitchen is cleaned out... 11 black trash bags; called the county and Mark came and helped move the refrigerator into the kitchen
- First of the week will start the work room
- County is going to come rearrange our wifi setup to hide the wires

KB

Bank Robbery Trail:

- Spoke to Vanessa at cemetery to get on workshop; rec center has already talked to them; talked about the kiosks;
- JS – one of the topics of discussion at last ERBM meeting was road that goes to Circle Park
- KB – we talked about that yesterday
- KB – found first person buried at the cemetery, suggested a sign; Joe Conrado suggested developing the old trail on the west side so that people could make a circle go back down
- SL – digital map or app, mapping the cemetery itself as an idea?
- KB - Called about signage (Steamboat and New Castle), kiosks should probably be similar to the one on CR 8 in format; gone to library trying to find pictures; talked about signs for history walking tour and rural schools, need a sign for the first agency but haven't found any pictures of that yet
- JS – anything published before 1926 should be in the public domain

Cemeteries

- Old cemeteries in our community, like 5, only one has perpetual care; others are taken care of by individuals/members of the public;
- TR – there is documented information about that, we just need to get that information
- Contact Cox, Uphoff, Fritzlán, Weiss
- JS – Milk Creek battle cemetery is designated as a US military cemetery
- KB – gathering information from libraries about the story of the Meeker Uprising/ Massacre because I'm asking to see how you want that presented in the brochures
- JS – historically accurate
- BA – my understanding is a lot of historians call it an uprising because it doesn't rise to the level of a massacre
- JS – Bob Silbernagel in his book says it does not meet the definition of a massacre; it was a battle that incurred for cause; Meeker instigated the incident
- BA – term is also inflammatory and that's why the Utes don't like it

HCC – TRR

- Masons used the HCC for an event last weekend
- Lee is working on finishing the front window, needs to be warm enough

Milk Creek Park – JS

- Signs are done, ready to go
- TR – paid \$244 for a couple of pictures
- Approval given to send the signs to Panniere
- Want to pay Caitlin \$1,000 from the Milk Creek fund; presentation date TBD
- Uriah Llewellen of South Dakota emailed and said it's completely inappropriate to have soldiers buried in the Milk Creek and that they should be moved; Jay explained that Brad Edwards created a problem; long and short of discussion is Uriah is excited to come here for a personal tour of Milk Creek

History Lives – JS

- People are coming out of the woodwork and saying they'd like to make a presentation
- Bob has been emailing back and forth with Gary Zellers about the Teddy Roosevelt impersonator
- Create categories... a lot of interest in the community around musical events
- If we balance it right and promote it correctly we can get people wanting to come and participate
- Chris Selle wasn't discouraging, but said getting staff involved is hard; sent information on extracurricular projects and pointed out that 4th graders in particular are in real need of something to do
- On Friday meeting at Jay's at 10 a.m., Joe Livingston is collecting a variety of topics for possible presentations for a year

- Photographer who cross country skied across Yellowstone, gave Jay lessons a few weeks ago; asked if he would be interested in coming down and photographing; put together an event in March of 2020, have him come down to do a photography exhibit and workshop at the HCC, and talk about the concept of Yellowstone Forever; opportunity to present a different face for people coming to Meeker that takes us beyond hunting
- Email from Yellowstone wildlife biologist; talked about wolves and cougars and bears and impact on ecosystem; volunteered to do a wildlife census of the animals in Josephine Basin (trail cameras at strategic locations) with a focus on predators
- Want to do a poll of sorts to determine what the community wants to know about
- BA – the county has decided not to do tourism on their website, just business... suggest historical society/Main Street would do a website; look at North Fork Valley Creative for a potential template
- NT – consider talking to the lodging tax board to collaborate on a tourism website

Coal Creek – JC

- Belfry is about done
- Creating a plan for things that need to be done in the next few years
- TR – Scott is working on the donation box; want to mount it on a pole set in concrete

Moved to add Bob's grant proposal to the agenda (JS, NT)

State Historical Fund Grant in educational category

- Need to start getting going on this, deadline is April 1; have all the stuff we need but need to put the language together; we have 11 buildings classified on the National Register and signs that tell the legend of the building and have the history
- Would have to check with town on placement
- On the agenda for next town meeting regarding historic preservation

Preservation Conference – TR

- Those who attended will put together a write 400-word articles about the workshops attended; we are going to need to approach the CLG and help our community try to understand it
- Praise for Brandon's representation of our community

Budget: Review of work meeting and budget approval

- Putting the work that we did in a comprehensive format
- Tabled until next month

Old Business

- Quarterly Meeting: April 14
 - o KB – Talked to Kris Casey re: History Presentations from BMS to exhibit; talked to Keri Grieser re: Night at the Museum... tabled that to next meeting

- CLG: Sandra is the county chair of historic preservation; going to try to sit down with Si and go through the draft

Use Tax Application

- Meeting with Lisa Cook on March 5/workshop, sharing information on the town's website as well as ours
- Town of Meeker gives matching grants to businesses; working with them to make sure people have an awareness of their own historical structures; guidelines that go out with the application; also doing a handout with Project 45; informing property owners of tax credits and grant opportunities
- CLG would provide matching grants
- Janet, church needs repairs and decided to go for historical structure assessment for Catholic church, got \$14,000

New Business

- Benevity: grant program used by nonprofits; we got signed up and got our first check from them which will go to Rural Schools
- Membership Development
 - o Community Heart & Soul
- Volunteer Development
 - o Looking for application to request funds to pay volunteers
- County and State Filing/Grant Apps
 - o No discussion
- Meeker Herald is partially digitized

Adjourn:

Moved JS/second SL

7:31 p.m.

Next Meeting March 26