

Rio Blanco County Historical Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019
5:45 p.m. Heritage Culture Center

Call to Order: 5:55 p.m.

In attendance: TR, BG, KB, BL, BA, ER, JC, NT, SL by telephone

Agenda Additions & Approval:

- Ellen: library
- Kay:

Public Participation: None

Minutes of Last Meeting: Nov. 27 meeting; moved by KB, second by BG

Committee Reports:

Museum: TRR

- Slow season, putting new labels on all of the brochures with the correct email address and website.
- Lee is typing in the labels for items in the museum, Doc is keeping things clean.

Lighting: BA

- Haven't heard back yet

Gift Shop: TRR

- Doing well. Sold a Christmas ornament today.
- Bobby: Gift shop discussion
 - o Concerned about what we're selling in the gift shop; believes we're jeopardizing our nonprofit status by what we're doing in the gift shop; we're competing with existing businesses; no paperwork as far as how things are handled; Jay has artwork in there, can anybody put their artwork in there; Sec. 2.2 of articles of incorporation have limitations on activities... no part of the net earnings can be distributable to officers, directors or members... selling artwork, crafts, etc. from members puts us in competition with existing businesses; it's one thing to be selling T-shirts or mugs with the museum logo, but competing with retail businesses jeopardizes our 501c3 license and I don't think it looks good in the public that we're doing that, and as a local business owner I don't want to compete with the museum, I send people to the museum, I don't want to send them here to buy honey that I sell in my store. I think we need to revisit and come up with some policies of what it is we're selling. I don't think we should be consigning board members stuff to sell. If he wants to donate the proceeds to the museum that's one thing. For him to be able to display his artwork and that and have someone there covering it and selling it for him and collecting the money that's bad business.

- Terri

- Tabling the discussion about Jay's artwork; he is willing to donate his item
- As a nonprofit no more than 10% of total annual revenue can be from the gift shop, the only things that can be in the shop are things with historical relevance... how things are put into the shop, providing information about how items sold are made; for us to say someone on the board or a member can't have items in the shop could be construed as competition
- Is he making money from being an artist or from being a board member
- Libby have documentation of every item is sold there
- Vendors have an inventory
- Bob
 - Ute Indian Museum has all kinds of items; Craig sells items, Denver Art Museum, they all sell stuff
 - Need to get an opinion from Sandra
- Terri
 - We've been selling items in the museum for a long time and some of it has been documented and some has not
- Bob
 - There's also a consideration that we want people to be able to come in and see things and take something away, need to look at the bigger picture
- Terry
 - Developed labels for every item in the shop, and documentation about how honey is made, how soap is made, and the relevance of that
 - I think we should table the entire argument, but I don't think the museum
- Bobby
 - I'd just like to officially resign. I joined the museum to preserve and promote our history. I don't want to be the negative guy all the time. I don't want to argue over it. It bums me out that you folks can't see that.
- Kay
 - Is there a concern that as a private business you pay more?
- Bobby
 - I wanted to get on the board to help with the history.
- Kay
 - We didn't really have this until the person donated the money.
- Bobby
 - I sell his honey. He came to me, he bottles his honey in my shop because it's a certified kitchen.
- Kay
 - Isn't that free enterprise?
- Bobby
 - I would like to resign. Thank you. Good luck.
- Steve
 - I understand his concern about the 501c3 and the board members benefitting; competition among businesses in a small town is very obvious, so it's tough to say you can't compete
- Terri

- I will have an opportunity to visit with Sandra about that
- He has some valid concerns, but they are concerns we're looking at and approaching carefully
- Steve
 - When we're looking at our sales from the gift shop we're looking at what, \$100 a month
- Terri
 - Books are our biggest seller, will go back and look at the books and see what is selling and by what percentage

Accessions: Kay

- Nothing

Bank Robbers Trail: Kay

- Waiting to attend the state meeting for more ideas

HCC: TRR

- Hot water heater broke; probable cause of high heat bill
- No charge for this for teaching, educational? (Kay)
- We don't have anything in the documentation for our policies.
- Terri, biggest concern I have is people come in and leave the heat up.

Milk Creek

- Signs, need to pay for an image from History Colorado, should be here and ready to install in the spring, still have money in the bank
- Bob Amick: working with CDOT about a sign on Hwy. 13, required to mark them
- Steve: Can we use the leftover funds for operations and maintenance?
- Terri: Yes, should have enough for several years of operations
- \$1,100 deposited in December 2017 that was not ever moved, so it's about \$19,000
- Signage is \$11,000

Coal Creek School- Janet

- Working on the belfry again, have the materials but won't be up until spring
- RBC Road & Bridge, asked if they'd plow up the driveway, have to ask every time we want it plowed

Preservation Conference – TRR

- Kay, Terri and Bob A. are attending

Annual budget and planning meeting Feb. 12

- Janet asked if we can put funds in the budget for Coal Creek operations and maintenance

Ellen Reichert –

- Has books brought over from the museum, can I take those to Mike Bartlett at the library and have them catalogued so someone can see what we have and what's available through the library
- TRR: We don't have a quorum; at this point let's allow for that to happen and have a vote on it at the next quorum
- BA: You can move and second and take a provisional action, then contact the rest of the board for approval and then it will be formal
- Ellen: In the research room there were some books that were moved over, can we take some out for exhibit to the Coal Creek School?
- Ellen: You said possibly we would be having a sale, in some cases we have multiple copies of these items, can we sell the excess
- Kay: If they donated them with the idea they would stay there?
- Terri: I don't know that we've resolved that. Maybe reach out to the families that donate them and ask if they want them back.
- Bob: Maybe talk to Sandra about language in the donation document
- Kay: Talked to Mike at the library last night about digitizing the newspaper; would like Niki and whoever else to go and see how to make it work; he's also working on creating a digital tour of places and their history; also has old pictures he's putting into the computer, linking to names in files so all the pictures show up, would like to have students come help out in that area
- Terri: This is a big step toward getting part of our strategic plan in place

Budget – TRR

- Will bring annual budget to the meeting; payroll, W2s done

Cale Property – Ellen

- Kirk Shaw family wanted to visit with us about it last summer because her mother owned it

CLG – Bob A.

- With the new commissioners I think we might have a shot, and the new county attorney might be helpful on that

Rangely Standing Committee – Bob A.

- Gaila wanted to recommend appointed Diana Sizemore to the vacant position on the Historic Preservation Committee for the county

Whalin – Bob A

- The town doesn't have an existing building ordinance that allows for historic buildings; if the town will adopt that provision it will exempt those historic structures

Removal of antiquities of the courthouse: Terri

- Now the issue is they need some pictures that are historic in nature to put in their offices.
- Brook Mantle

Meeker Market: Booth reserved Feb. 8

- Take brochures and work on membership

Benevity

- Had someone call who wanted the availability to donate through Google, we are now receiving those monies

Membership Development

- TRR: Need new ideas

Volunteer Development

- BA: Possibly a way to bring in community Heart and Soul organization
- TRR: There are state funds available to subsidize volunteers

All county and state filings are done, grant apps, etc.

- Bob going to apply for State Historical Fund Grant due April 1 to dovetail with the project of cataloging designated or contributing buildings

CRAFT Mentor Project: BA

Brandon Lozano

- Do we have a volunteer database that we currently source from?
- TRR: We have three people.
- Google Drive database so everyone has access?
- Brandon can volunteer to work on that, for cataloging pictures and so forth

Bob A.

- Nominate Brandon to be a board member, provisional nomination; NT move, KB 2nd
- Confirm with rest of the board to make it official

Adjourn at 7:05

NT move, KB 2nd