

**APPROVED BY E-VOTE 7/18/2020**  
**MOTION TO ACCEPT: J PENNINGTON**  
**SECOND: JILL H**  
**VOTE: ALL**

Grand Canyon Historical Society - Spring Board Meeting  
Virtual Meeting - Social Distancing on Zoom  
April 25, 2020 – For AZ 9:30 am to 12:30 am MST, For UT & NM 10:30 am to 1:30 pm MDT

*The Grand Canyon Historical Society celebrates and promotes the study and preservation of the Grand Canyon region's cultural and natural history for the education and enjoyment of its members and the public.*

**Board Members Present:** *Dave M., Nikki C., Slim W., Helen R., Dick B., Jack R., Kristen L., Haley J., David S., Rich T., Mari Carlos, Margaret Hangan, Brian Blue*

**Not present:** *Jack P., Jill H*

**General Membership folks present.**

Agenda Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Call to order and welcome. Dave Mortenson

2. Short discussion on Zoom procedures. Nikki Cooley

3. Consent Agenda Items Dave Mortenson

(See consent item procedures below since this is a new approach for our BOD.)

a. Board of Directors (BOD) meeting minutes Jan 12, 2020.

b. Treasurer's report.

c. Oral History Committee program report.

d. Outings report.

E-votes taken prior to this meeting:

a. BOD approved Treasurer proposal to destroy paper copies of paid bills.

b. BOD approval of Daniel Milowski's \$1500 grant.

c. BOD approval of four standing committees: Governance, Communication, Programs & Activities

No objections were expressed from the board members to accept the consent items.

4. Executive Committee report – No meetings held. None

Dave M. gave a brief description of what this is and no further discussion commenced.

5. Report on Board Member Assignments for four Standing Committees Report - Dave Mortenson

- Focus on particular areas that deal with governance group

- Most important thing to do is to review board membership term, current 3 w/2 consecutive terms, every year new board members come aboard but downside is that institutional knowledge is lost. The need to document everything for new members to learn about is important.

- Governance Committee: Dick Brown (Chair), Haley Johnson, Jack Pennington, Helen Ranney, David Schaller

- Will have a process that general membership to be assigned as they volunteer. So far, there is Karen G. (membership chair) to document processes.

- Communications Committee: quarterly publication/bulletin, social media, website,

- Mari Carlos, Margaret H., Rich Turner (Chair), Karen G. (editor of bulletin), Mary Williams (editor of Old Pioneer)

- Programs Committee: activities, functions such as oral history interviews and documentation on how GC has been important to their lives and interests.

- Nikki Cooley, Margaret, Haley, Kristen L, Helen R., Jack Reid, David S., Slim W. and will have some general membership as this develops more.

- Activities Committee: intent is to involve general membership and the public such as the symposium, tours, and other activities sponsored by GCHS

- Mari Carlos, Nikki C., Jill H., Kristen L., Dave M., Jack R., Slim W.

- At the annual meeting which occur in January, the President will appoint new members so committee will change. Give board ability to focus and be effective than before.
  - Comments: Kristen L. says it will be effective and helpful and asked who are the Chairs of the Program and Activities committees.
  - *Dave M.*: There are no Chairs for those said committees and hopefully through the democratic process, they will be chosen. All committees will evolve to learning how they will and can run more efficiently. Not attached to any specific procedures if committees want to have subsets of committee within to make it run more.
  - *Helen R.*: Before end of meeting, suggests to determine goals for committees to meet so Chairs are chosen to help move forward.
    - *Dave M.*: Before next July meeting, committee reports will be requested for board to stay in the loop. Good opportunity for new board members to learn.
  - *David S.*: Within in Program committee, we have a current oral history committee who should continue to do the work without waiting for the Program committee.
    - *Dave M.*: yes, good example of subcommittee. Process should not interfere.
  - *Tom Martin*: As part of his oral history work he has access to website, social media, etc.

6. Governance Committee will conduct review of the Bylaws for some Fine Tuning. Report - Dick Brown  
*Dick Brown report*: governance committee could use zoom to meet.

- Will need to develop officers, chairs & office descriptions. Keep a list of future board members who are in good standing, leadership, special skills. When it comes to bylaws, the committee will review which should be a periodic action of the committee.
- Determine changes needed to bylaws document and may be revised to recognize new four standing committees. All committee members need to be GCHS members. Need look at how nominating committee works, to make recommendations for retention and re-election of incumbent board members. Confused on election tally terminology which says people are either board approved and others do not state that. Recommend committee take a review on that.

7. Update on the digitization project. Report – Kristen Luetkemeier  
*Kristen L.*

- Related to archives progress, GCHS has a collection of archival material including oral histories, photographs, drawings, etc. They have been working on priority list for digitization which have 9 collections included on it. All 9 have almost been digitized include Robert McPherson, Jack Greening, Gayle B., Ethel M., Robert B., etc. Copyright issues have stalled the John Riffy collection.
  - Tom Martin has delivered almost 50 oral history recordings to NAU Collections.
  - Working with David S. on the AZ Humanities Grant & got an extension to June 12.
  - NAU Special Collections: GCHS partner in digitization & archival processes. They have hired an additional three part time contractors (thanks to the grants) to help meet grant deadlines. NAU is short staffed.
  - Covid-19 has reassigned NAU staff Peter Runge and until they return, 3 part time contractors are Emilia Swan, Pat Conley & Malia Runge will work with Helen R. (project manager) to move forward.
  - 2 areas for improvement identified:
    - Update NAU's records specifically the finding aide which is how researchers and archivists know what's in specific collections. NAU has agreed to list the collections as GCHS collections & call numbers instead of NAU specific especially when they are gifted.
    - Digitization: to help preserve archival materials & to increase public access.
  - *Questions/Feedback*:
    - Chat box: Helen will reach out to Peter Runge next week. And Karen asked for an article to be included in The OI' Pioneer and Jack R has volunteered to write an article.
    - All steps to view items will be sent in different email.
    - *Dave M.*: at the last symposium, five oral history interviews were conducted & will be available in The OI' Pioneer.

8. GCHS is now an AHS institutional member. Update on process & opportunities. Report - Jill Hough  
*Dick B*: GCHS is now an affiliate member of the AZ Historical Society, tier 1 – brick & mortar which are those who have museums, etc., tier 2 – members don't have physical facilities like GCHS. Feb 2 GCHS applied for tier 2 and March 12 GCHS was approved by AZHS's outreach committee. GCHS was on March agenda but cancelled and April meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19. Tier 2 approval allows GCHS to apply for annual grants.

9. Colorado River Basin History Symposium discussion of potential schedule change. Report - Dave Mortenson

*Dave M.* Goal of this project was to involve a variety of entities to make connections, to expand knowledge. Currently, the timeline is an issue and would like to recommend postponement due to uncertainty and lack of vaccination available. Recommend postpone to October 2021 because most facilities may be closed.

*Comments:*

*Helen R:* one thing to discuss (next time), timeline of symposium scheduled for 2022 & maybe combining 2 events together to alleviate work involved with consecutive years? Create a symposium committee?

*Mari Carlos:* ?

*Rich Turner:* yes to postponing

Motion to postpone CO River Basin History Symposium to 2021 by Dave M

Dave M. said facilities are reserved for Oct 2021 in case that is what we will do.

2nd motion: Dick Brown

Comments/Discussion: Haley agrees, Kristen agrees with Helen's proposal for combining 2 events, Helen: Cline library may want to partner with GCHS as their auditorium holds 400 people, Mari is in favor

All approve: Yes (by visual and chat box) to approve to delay symposium for one year and will look into alternatives as needed.

10. Scheduling & planning the 6<sup>th</sup> Grand Canyon History Symposium.

Report - Dave Mortenson

*Dave M.:* 1st three events were 5 years apart, other 2 were 3 years apart. The 2 events, we gave membership opportunity to register early & as a result, a lot of people registered with new membership. Membership goes up during symposium dates and down during off years. One of the things to consider is that new activities will bring new membership such as the outings which are opportunities for engagement year round. Consider location for symposium to be held – Flagstaff or South Rim? Combine both events? Lots of mechanics to consider and be aware of for the future. Consider not having such large time gaps between symposiums.

➤ GC Conservancy has really helped with publishing the proceedings. In the past, Richard Q. has edited the last proceedings but for 2020, covid-19 has stalled the process.

➤ Comments: Mari: has the symposium produced a manual in the past?

○ *Karen:* yes one does exist. *Helen:* an excel document is used for timeline for the 2016 event but procedure has changed immensely.

11. Summer Picnic Status Update?

Report - Jack Pennington

*Dave M.:* currently scheduled for second week in July at Shoshone Point

-Recommendation is to wait and see and then decide to defer.

*Rich T.:* recommend to pick a date to make a decision. Maybe June 1.

*Dick B:* agree to make a decision on June 1, 2020. Doesn't look promising for event to continue as scheduled.

*Comments:* *David S.* I would not attend even if the park reopened., *Tom:* hold a zoom picnic, *Helen:* GTS has held a virtual event.

12. Other items?

*Rich T.:* who is the webmaster? So I can give oral histories to be posted.

● *Dave M:* will defer to communications committee to be responsible for this.

● *David S.* we can put oral histories on the web but we can go on the web right now to read transcriptions and listen to previous histories. We just need to get the word out that it is available to anyone interested.

● *Kristen:* we are working on access to archival material

● *Tom (member):* would be glad to work with Rich T. on the website, waiting for the releases and maybe train Rich T.

● *Karen:* Jack is the current webmaster & it would be great if Tom could help again.

● *Sam (member):* has two thumbdrives, one of which is his mother and the other is his wife. Very pleased to have access to that

*Mari:* why did the cost of The Ol' Pioneer increase?

○ *Dave M:* a combination of electronic & print costs.

○ *Brian B:* it's primarily a timing issue of previous payments. *Karen* is asking people if they want electronic copies and people who joined recently 90% are asking for print copies. 2021 is when it will provide options more widely. Printing costs should go down since membership is down. 250 people and she gets 10 extra copies made to distribute.

Regarding Grand Canyon National Park's reopening, this is the latest from the National Park Service:

In accordance with guidance from the White House, CDC, and local public health authorities, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are working to gradually increase access to national parks in a safe manner. The NPS will continue to work with state and local officials as these changes are implemented.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be paramount. In our parks, our operational approach will be to examine each facility function and service provided to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance. Decisions on a phased resumption of operations will be made on a park-by-park basis and regularly monitored.

---

Grand Canyon National Park has a new superintendent on the way. His name is Ed Keable, he has a 23-year career with the Department of Interior Office of the Solicitor, he is scheduled to enter on duty 4/26 and arrive in Grand Canyon 5/10. Press release is here: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/grand-canyon-superintendent-ed-keable.htm>

Dates for next three Board meetings:

- Summer Board Meeting - Sat Jul 11, 2020 Community Center 8:00 – 11:00 (Before Annual 12 to 4 Picnic Shoshone Point. May need to adjust location and type of meeting. Gathering or virtual.)
- Fall Board meeting Date, location and Time (TBD)
- Annual Meeting Jan 23, 2021 – Location and Time (TBD)

Adjourn

## **How the Consent Agenda Works**

The chair takes the lead role in utilizing a consent agenda. The chair prepares an agenda package that includes all of the items on the consent agenda. The package is distributed to board members soon enough so that they have time to read through the documents prior to the meeting. This is a part of the overall board materials that are distributed.

Typical steps for using a consent agenda include:

1. The chair decides which items will be placed on the consent agenda. The consent agenda can appear as part of the normal meeting agenda or it can be attached separately to the meeting agenda.
2. The chair distributes the consent agenda and associated documents in time for board members to read and review.
3. At the beginning of the meeting, the board chair asks members if any of the consent agenda items should be moved to the regular discussion items.
4. If a member requests that an item be moved, it must be moved. Any reason is sufficient to move an item. A member can move an item to discuss the item, to query the item, or to vote against it.
5. Once the item has been moved, the chair may decide to take up the matter immediately or move it to a discussion item.
6. When there are no items to be moved or if all requested items have been moved, the chair or secretary reads out loud the remaining consent items. The chair will announce that the items on the consent agenda have been adopted. It's not necessary to take a vote on consent agenda items.
7. The secretary should include the full text of the resolutions, reports, and recommendations that were adopted as part of the consent agenda.