

Grand Canyon Historical Society - Annual Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, January 23, 2021 – 10:00 am – 12 noon MST

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.

I. Call to order @10am (mst)

Dave Mortenson/Dick Brown

Welcome and introductions by current & new board members

Present: 12 board members

Dave Mortenson	Jack Reid	Slim Woodruff	Mari Carlos	Harris Abernathy	Dick Brown	Kevin Schindler
Rich Turner	David Schaller	Brian Blue	Jason Nez	Ted Martinez	Nikki Cooley	

Not present: Haley Johnson and Helen Ranney

Recognition of guests by Brian B. and they introduced themselves: Karen Greig, Tom Sulpizio

II. Housekeeping

Nikki Cooley

Ascertain quorum (12)

Zoom procedures: Please mute when not speaking, verbal discussion as much as possible.

Approval of Minutes Oct. 21, 2020:

-1st Motion: Rich Turner

-2nd Motion: Brian Blue

-Vote: All in favor

III. Election of Officers

Dave Mortenson

Annual process in January to elect board members to be officers.

- President: *Dick Brown*
- Vice-President: *Slim Woodruff*
- Treasurer: *Re-electing Brian Blue*
- Secretary: *Nikki Cooley*

**No other people indicated they want to be considered, current folks self-nominated.*

Vote: all in favor

**Dave M. turns meeting over to new President, Dick Brown*

IV. Filling Seat #5 on Board Roster

Dick Brown

*Proposed the vacant seat #5 be filled by the 6th person to receive election votes, Tom Martin. This would fill vacant seat left by Jill Staurowsky's third and final year. The same process was done in 2020 and proposed same process for 2021.

- Discussion took place before votes.
- 1st motion: Dick Brown
- 2nd Motion: Brian Blue
- Abstain: 1

Vote: all in favor (11)

**Dick B. agreed that he will inform Tom M. after which Tom M. will need to formally accept or decline.*

V. Consent Items

Dick Brown

Discussion:

- Mari asked for clarification (for new board members) on item #3. Dick said some funds from donations received at membership renewal time have been restricted to scholarship grant program (Mari is currently in charge of). Close to \$7K available in unrestricted funds. Proposing that future donations be unrestricted so as to give flexibility in operating costs in general. Funds will go to the grants program; some will go to other uses such as digitization work.
- David S.: Will there be anything in consent items that will affect existing board policies to grant 1 year complimentary membership to the society to people who have successfully completed their time in doing transcription work for the oral history project which has been customary? Some have not always been able to take advantage of it.
 - Dick: No, there is not and I do not see anything in the 8 consent items that would affect it. Tom M. has gotten excellent support from folks to do transcription work.
- Brian B.: Would it be okay to make complimentary memberships an online delivery of OI' Pioneer only which would impact the financial impact of it?
 - Dick and David S. support the idea.
 - Question from Rick T: How many of these people are there? If there are only 2 or 3, not much of a financial impact but if more than 10.
 - David S.: Last year, 72 transcripts completed with some individuals doing more than 1.
 - Karen: needs to be notified who are doing transcripts in order for them to receive complimentary memberships. Last time most people preferred online delivery and to date she only has 7 names.
 - David S.: When Tom returns, we will do a survey of transcribers and see whose names need to be referred to Karen.
 - *Item B.* 2019 symposium proceedings, previous concern about proceedings going unclaimed, he thought he could gift them to national and international libraries. Currently, he is sending them to libraries in Spain, Mexico, Britain, JFK, GC High School, etc. Wanted board to know about them. IF there is a second printing, he will continue to do it.
 - Brian: Grand Canyon Conservancy agreed to print another 100 colored copies and maintain same price of 2019 proceedings. Copies will be available at GCC website.

Motion to approve consent items:

- 1st: David S.:
- 2nd: Rich T.
- Vote: all in favor

VI. Executive Committee Report

Dick Brown

- Dick explained that the bylaws require executive committee which consists of four officers plus one member at-large. Dick asked Jack if he would serve, explained the role of position and Jack agreed.

VII. Colorado River Basin Symposium Proposal (October 2021)

Dave Mortenson

- Dave M.:
 - Sent information to the board, Dave M. serves as the Chair.
 - Purpose of 2021 symposium:

- 7 Colorado River Basin states & bring the communities including Tribes, Parks, etc., and to share the history which has been overlooked. Funded by symposium attendees, hopefully people will be vaccinated & willing to gather. Attendance potential to be as high as 700+ (capacity of location is high) & will not move forward until revenue comes in. GCHS will not be asked to contribute financially nor will GCHS be liable.
- *Ask from Dave:* & would like board to consider that GCHS be a partner and symposium's 501 c(3) fiscal sponsor and for Brian Blue to be the Treasurer/financial manager for event.
 - *Ted* asked where we stand & who is partnering with us on this event?
 - *Dave M.* is a volunteer, reaching out to potential organizations who can help recruit attendees, speaker, and volunteers. GCHS would be asked to recruit & promote in addition to Brian's proposed duties.
 - *Brian:* Dave M. has done homework including budget and workplan.
 - *Dick:* Dave M. will return in April & July & provide updates.
 - *David S.:*
 - Concern that GCHS & CO River Symposium are close in dates.
 - Looks forward to hearing who other partner orgs will be
 - *Dave M:*
 - Will check on liability of location in case event has to be cancelled or postponed (*responding to David S.'s concern*)
 - GCHS can use Oct symposium as a type of training for GCHS 2022
 - *Mari:* Is there a chance for virtual attendance?
 - *Dave M:* looking into what the options are & who can help with this to make it happen.
- Motion to approve:
 - 1st: Mari
 - 2nd: Rich
 - Vote: all in favor (12)

VI. Executive Committee Report and Committee Chair Appointments (*revisiting this item that was skipped over*)

Dick Brown

Current Committees:

- *Digitization:* Helen (lead)
- *Membership:* Karen (lead)
- *Governance:*
 - Brian, David, Helen, Karen (non-board member)
 - Proposed Ted M. and Slim W.
- *Communications:*
 - Rich and proposed Kevin as co-chair
- *Research Grant Program:* Mari (lead)
- *Hall of Fame Award:* Al Richmond (*charter member*) & would like to continue
- *Pioneer Award Committee Chair:* Wayne Ranney (continue to chair)
- *Oral History Program:* David & Tom will continue as co-chairs
- *Activities:* Haley, Jason, Harris, Jack (proposed), Rich will volunteer if needed.
 - *2022 GCHS Symposium:* Wayne Ranney (Chair) & would need help.
 - *Shoshone Point Picnic:* (*Still reserved for July 17 & would usually have a board meeting*)

- *Financial:* Brian would like to have a volunteer to be an independent auditor = Kevin has indicated an interest but Mari has volunteered and has been appointed as auditor.

VIII: GCHS Governance Committee Report

Dick Brown

- *Oral History Program:* Continues to be strong.
- *Digitization:* Helen doing a good job & will be seeking more money to do more work down the road. Private donations & AZ Humanities Grant has assisted in accomplishing work. \$3400 remaining in budget.
- *Ol' Pioneer:* Going strong. Look for ways to make it stronger. One concern is that the publication is primarily funded by membership fees so there may be a need to add funds to this budget line item.
- *Research Grant Program:* In good hands with Mari who will be putting out a notice for call for applicants. Typically provide 2 grants per year. Used to conduct field work.
- *Shoshone Point Picnic (pre-paid), NPS has allowed GCHS to apply fees towards 2021 event, if cancelled there is a good chance GCHS will not receive a refund which is not the norm.*
- *Website:* Need a webmaster, Tom and Brian have done a good job but need a new webmaster
 - Propose that the Communications Committee put a call out to the public to recruit.
 - Mari: would Karen be able to put in the upcoming Ol' Pioneer?
 - Karen: not too late and can send out an email, too.
 - Rich: would be good to publicize in more than one medium
- *2022 GC History Symposium:*
 - Planning will start Feb 2021 and Wayne as Chair who is thinking a dual virtual and in-person event. In person will happen in Flag with field trips at the canyon. Will be the 6th symposium.
- *Governance:*
 - Need to update bylaws, objectives, mission statement which will help in the structural organization of GCHS.
- *Membership:*
 - Members can be a great resource for org and we need to publicize GCHS more to recruit.
 - Opportunity to step up outreach.

Group took a 5 minute Break

Brian:

- Are we taking a vote on whether these are objectives in the near-term or mid-term? Are we in agreement as a board? This will provide the board direction.

Dick: Need vote from the board as to whether we going in the right direction.

- Motion to approve governance committee report
- 1st: Rich
- 2nd: Harris
- Discussion:
- *David:*
 - One of the ideas would be to inform or drive the decisions to set up the appropriate committee structure & influence on what priorities we're to spend funds on. The governance committee report such as this has served its purpose but there will be reports on events that change priorities or activities. Propose that this is a living document to move along with the changes that may occur.

- Vote: all in favor (12)

IX: GCHS Financial Health Report

Brian Blue

- Would like board to understand that GCHS's revenue sources are 2-fold: memberships at \$25/year and net revenue from symposia which is every 2 or 3 years.
- Membership funds almost identically the cost of sending the Ol' Pioneer 4x per year. The membership fees do not fund anything else the GCHS wants to do. Two things we can do is: nothing, reduce expenses which is pretty much the delivery of Ol' Pioneer by going purely online OR increase revenue by many methods by membership, fundraising, book or merchandise sales, or grants. Current structure contributes nothing to the revenue of GCHS. Dependent on objectives we just approved or how aggressively we pursue them, we will need additional funds. Not suggesting increasing membership but rather we need to figure out other sources of revenue.
 - Kevin: have we had a fundraising committee?
 - Brian: no, it has not been an objective of GCHS in the past.
 - Ted: has GCHS considered free student memberships and do you think that this would serve the society? *Increase outreach and society membership in different demographics.
 - Dick: good idea and good to consider.
 - Brian: This has been discussed in financial health and consider different financial arrangements.
 - Mari: virtual membership & electronic delivery of Ol' Pioneer would be at no cost, and consider a fee upgrade for print version.
 - Brian: There is even an expense for electronic version.
 - David: If we go below a certain # of print copies, GCHS would lose the inexpensive bulk delivery price & we would spend more to mail out fewer print versions.
 - Karen: if it drops below 200 print versions, then they have to mail First Class which is more costly.
 - Rich: do we send complimentary copies to anyone?
 - Karen: Yes, but not very many. Maybe 10.
 - Mari: can we get a list of who is getting a complimentary copy and see if we can send to specific people like the Superintendent?
 - Karen: Superintendent is on the list. If GCHS sends out complimentary copies then the cost will increase.

X: Communications Committee Report

Rich Turner

- Discussed ideas of how to recruit new members and promote the Society including Grand Canyon groups and their websites such as GC private outfitters.
 - Podcast similar to Scott Thybony's KNAU Canyon Commentary. Talked with program director at KNAU to see what process involves. Maybe 3-5 minute clips.
 - Produce a series of podcasts and shop around to radio stations such as KNAU.
 - *Jack*: a good idea and to do it through a personal lens but not to replicate but to complement.
 - *Harris*: Does GCHS have an existing relationship with Delaware North and other concessionaires such as Xanterra? It would be advantageous to build relationship with them as they have the most interface with visitors. Willing to reach out if needed.

XI: Research Grant Report

Mari Carlos

- Mari: we can fund five grants for this cycle?

- Rules are laid out in the announcement and asked board members to share via social media or email.
- If there is any information out there regarding how the Program was established please send her way. Cannot find in files she has access to.
- Raise dollar amount from \$1500 to \$2000 but this would be based on # of applicants & how many meet eligibility requirements.
- One of the requirements is to have the Society obtain completed project reports back from the successful grantees and their projects. How far should I go back? Will need updated contact information. Will reach out to board if she needs help finding them.
- Suggests GCHS gets standing rules which are easier to deal with rather than bylaws.
- This will be printed in next Ol' Pioneer.

XII: AHS Certified Historical Institution Grant Opportunity

Dick Brown

- GCHS is an affiliate member of AHS
- A certified historical institution which came through a previous application with AHS. We are a tier 2 member which makes us eligible for 1 year research grant (\$1,000) which could potentially cover some specific costs. Per a discussion with Helen, she may be interested in applying.
- Brian motions to approve Research Grants be increased from \$1500 to \$2000 for 2021 and moves to authorize Mari to search for as many grants as possible to present to the board, Brian proposed Mari seek grantee projects going back 1 year.
 - Brian will change online and Karen will update in Ol' Pioneer
 - Discussion with Dave M. giving a bit of history on Research Grant amount and guidelines.
 - 1st: Brian
 - 2nd: Rich
 - Vote: all in favor

Next Meeting:

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021

Time: 10am – 12pm

Adjourn: 12:10pm