

Grand Canyon Historical Society – Spring Board Meeting Agenda

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, April 17, 2021 – 10:00 am – 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.

1. Call to Order and Welcome @10am Dick 2 min

Jack Reid	Harris Abernathy	Kevin Schindler	Mari Carlos	Dick Brown
Haley Johnson	David Schaller	Brian Blue	Helen Ranney	Nikki Cooley
*Robert Lauzon	Tom Martin			

Not present: Jason Nez, Slim W., Ted M.

*Recognition of special guest and *new board member:* Robert Lauzon

Guests: Wayne R., Dave Mortenson, Mike & Barb Nelson

2. Ascertain Quorum (11) Nikki 2 min

3. Adopt/Amend Agenda Dick 2 min

-Bring item #16 to after agenda #4

4. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of 1/23/21 Nikki 3 min

-1st Motion: Brian B.

-2nd Motion: Mari C.

-Vote: All in Favor

16. Board Position Vacancy (Pending Bylaws Revisions) Dick 2 min

- Need to fill Rich Turner's vacated board slot for remainder of 2019-2021 term. Rich left board due to medical reasons.
- Brian introduced & nominated Robert Lauzon is a CPA, businessman, lives in Dewey, AZ, does volunteer work for schools & churches as an accountant, long history with GC as the great grandson of W.W & Ada Bass & grandson of Bert & Edith Bass, will join meeting today after the vote. Brian has been looking for a board member who could take over the treasurer position. Robert would finish Rich's term and be up for re-election next year. Helen mentions that he has presented at the history symposium & is a GCHS member.

-1st Motion: Brian

-2nd Motion: David

-Vote: All in favor

5. Posting Minutes and Bylaws on Website – Discussion Dick 4 min

- We used to post the board meeting notes on our website. Dick suggests we go back to that practice for transparency, Nikki agrees, David agrees & suggests the Ol' Pioneer have a short summary or notification that board minutes are available online, Helen says as a general member posting board minutes would be a great idea, Tom would be happy to post on the

website, Dick suggests to start w/Jan2021 board meeting minutes but Tom M. ~~would~~ suggests all previous minutes be available to be as transparent as possible, Kevin says it would be useful to post by-laws, mission and vision statements where it is more visible. Tom says the bylaws should be under the *About Us* tab on the website.

6. Consent Calendar – Approval

Dick

4 min

Question from Mari: was the audit report posted or is it a part of the treasurer's report? Response from Brian: it is an item under *other business*.

-1st Motion: Brian moved to accept consent calendar as posted

-2nd Motion: Tom

-Vote: All in favor

a. Treasurer's Report – Brian

b. Oral History Committee Report - David

c. Governance Committee Report - Dick

d. Research Grant Program – Mari

e. Membership - Karen

f. Hall of Fame Award – Al

7. E-votes between Meetings: Research Grant Approval Nikki 2 min

-For the record, there were 11 board votes by conducted by email vote before the board meeting.

-1st Motion: Tom

-2nd Motion: Harris

-Vote: All in favor for Brian to write a check for William Holly and research grant he applied for.

8. Authorization for Treasurer to Issue \$2K Grant Check

Brian

2 min

See above

9. Digitization (Funding vs Remaining Work)

Helen

5 min

It's a slow quarter for archivists, hope to get a small group of board members to go to NAU collections to determine what should be & not be in the collection for GCHS, need to come up with criteria, when it gets closer, she will put together paperwork for additional funding and funding sources, but doesn't have anything right now.

- David: There may be a small funding grant opportunity soon & awaiting directions from funder. Would this fund go towards ~~to~~ the digitization or another GCHS activity? David and Helen will talk.
- David: There is also an idea to use potential funding for something other than digitization. Helen says yes, we can talk more and the additional funding can help GCHS. It's small enough funding that it'll be easy enough to apply for.
- David: The AZ Humanities grant that GCHS applied for last year is having another cycle with a notice of intent to apply and if approved, a larger proposal will be done. This money can be used for other GCHS activities. Helen says more discussion is needed but an idea can be to use potential funds for 2022 symposium and publication of proceedings. David said this needs to be done before July as notice of intent is due soon. Helen will propose vote by email if there is a short timeline. 12 month grant period. *Correction from Dick: AZ Historical Society and not the AZ Humanities is the 1st grant that David was talking about for a*

potential 1K grant for digitization. David will do research on the deadlines and inform everyone. David will research on AZ Humanities grant and report back

*** Robert Lauzon, new board member, joins the meeting here and is introduced by Brian.

10. Communication Committee Report and Discussion Kevin 10 min

- Reviewed ideas with Rich: communications supports a lot of what the board does, thinking of spearheading promoting GCHS through partnerships such as AZHS, etc., met with GC rangers to talk about working with park to get historical content into their tours that GCHS recommends and helps craft,
- Dick approached Jan Balsom, new director for communications and partners at the GCNP, about GCHS partnering w/Park like they do with GCC. He will wait to hear back from Jan who is getting used to her new position, and would like to meet or talk with her but may not be until July. Kevin would like to join discussion with Dick.
- Kevin: building relationships take time and he would like to jump on any opportunity out there. For example, Helen can make connections with the different groups she works with and looking for ideas.
- Harris: are there other Parks that have historical societies and how can we reach out to them to see what they are doing. Kevin thinks this is a good idea.
- Helen: Grand Canyon Conservancy (GCC) operates under 2 national park director orders, 1) cooperative association on outreach such as books, etc., funds group doing fundraising at the park's request. It's good to reach out to Jan to further our relationship so we can help them with outreach which can help with the symposium. All national parks are different and have different levels of partnerships, so a connection like Jan Balsom can help break the ice.
- Jack: Rich was in communication w/KNAU to do podcasts similar to *StarDate*. Perhaps do a promotion of GCHS but do something that would reach a large audience. Tom suggests a day partnership. Helen says it costs money but perhaps include some type of content and find money to support that.
- Harris will reach out to Kevin regarding KNAU idea and can also reach out to KNAU to take over what Rich started. KNAU may have similar audience to GCHS.
- Haley: Xanterra is a major Concessionaire at Grand Canyon NP. They do have someone hired as an "Interpretive Guide Trainer", her name is Samantha Flemke and her job is to train and the guides. GCHS could potentially partner with Xanterra to help introduce their guides to GCHS, even have one of us present at their trainings at the South Rim?
 - Pink Jeep Tours in Tusayan

11. Activities Committee Report Haley 10 min

- Committee includes Haley, Tom Martin, Helen Ranney, Jack Reid, Kevin Schindler, Karen Greig, Shane Murphy.
- Working on a once monthly virtual outing featuring different speakers, potential to twice monthly, every 2nd Tuesday, May 11 @6pm (AZ/Pacific) and Shane Murphy will be the first speaker talking about John Hance. We do have a list of speakers that were listed on the report sent to the board. More Indigenous and Female speakers in the future. Please send suggestions.
- Tom: put up on the website of what is on our youtube page. People can even record their presentations and GCHS can post it for viewing on the virtual outings page and GCHS's youtube page.
- Nikki suggests getting our board member Jason Nez on board especially with fire season coming

up. Haley spoke with Jason Nez and he suggested November or December and Haley in November because that is when fire season will calm down.

- Brian: This is an opportunity for funding. We are in touch with Shane Murphy's publisher to promote book during the presentation and is working on buying books at a 45 percent discount, and trying to get this done before May 11th.
- Tom: a great idea! During the presentation, the MC should promote the book, provide a link which people can click on to buy a book, and this is a great opportunity to fundraise.

12. Pioneer Award

Wayne

4 min

- Wayne introduced himself as having served on the GCHS board for six years and is now the Chair of the Pioneer Award. Four nominees, happy to report 10 of the 15 living past awardees voted Keith and Nancy Green for 2021 award. Keith started in 1972, dishwasher at the Bright Angel, and became a fixture at Phantom Ranch and became a seasonal park interpreter and went back to Phantom. He met wife., Nancy at the North Rim of GC who started in 1979 working for TW services and ended up being a librarian for the Grand Canyon schools. We haven't had four nominees since he's been managing our awards program and pleased to see the enthusiasm.
 - Board could discuss how the future awardees are chosen, would not recommend the General Membership be involved which would be too much. We can bring in last year's awardee, Jason Nez.
 - Wayne: will take care of the plaque ordering and the wording.
 - Helen: Wayne called Keith and Nancy and they went to visit them at the Peaks where they are currently living. Wayne reminded them of the award and it brought tears to Nancy's eyes. Thank you to all who voted for them and it shows them some gratitude as they helped with the first couple of symposia.
 - Wayne: Keith and Nancy came to the rescue of the society after 2007 symposium when the planning took the wind out of the planning committee. Nancy reminded him that at one board meeting, Nancy, Keith and George Billingsly showed up and Keith became the President, Nancy the secretary and George.
 - Nikki: agreed with the choice and spoke praise of Keith and Nancy when she met them on river trips, and taught the up and coming river guides the true meaning of communicating with the people. Thank you for recognizing them.

13. Shoshone Picnic/Award Presentations

Slim/Dick

5 min

- Slim is in charge of the 2021 picnic and Brian will receive notice of whether we will receive the greenlight for Shoshone Point and get the code. Slim will reserve the community center before the picnic, organize volunteers and transportation, will check with NPS. Slim lives at the canyon and is in the perfect position to check in with the Park Service. If it were to happen at the pavilion, then that would be having an event at a park facility. We will keep a view on the covid situation to see if it will happen or not. Slim has the key to check mail at the GC post office and is one of the things she does for GCHS.
- Dick: keep options open, looking for discussion from members.
 - Tom: what if we try to do it via zoom? Other events have done it and people can still chat and interact and they have MCs, general chats and visits, etc. Does GCHS have insurance?
 - Helen: it would be like a giving a presentation and make it look like an outing. It's not a big deal to wear a mask which would be a good option if meeting in person.

- Tom: the zoom concept, people are able to chat and talk back and forth, and after 10-15 minutes presentations commence and the MC can facilitate breakout rooms. Do we have board insurance if we have an incidence during an event?
- Dick: no idea if we do have insurance.
- David: used to be a contractor for the government & had to have a one million dollar policy and it cost \$1,000 to carry and that's just for one person just for writing documents. I was on the board of Engineers without Borders and the insurance was necessary.
 - Regarding the July event: 38 states have rising rates, we have to pay attention to national covid rates, etc., we have lots of options & it's a difficult decision. We need to wait & see before rushing to a decision. Things are changing every day.
 - Kevin: Currently, can put off making a decision but at some point, we need to set a deadline to make a decision and with enough time to go with the back up plan.
 - Haley: A friend who is an interpretive ranger says that the NPS is still very strict on the number of people for outings, even if we attempted a picnic in 2021, limited to 15-20 people, at Shoshone Point there is a potential, with some board members present, to do a live broadcast from there before or after or during, has seen other events do and be successful. We cannot pick and choose who can make it to the picnic if in person and with limitations.
 - Dick: consider that our Hall of Fame awardees are far from Shoshone Point.
 - Mari: zoom picnic would be easier for Nancy & Keith to be involved.
 - David: we would do the board meeting separate from picnic so we do not have to pull it off on the same day.
 - Dick: we will need to make a decision before July 17.

14. Colorado River Basin History Symposium Plans & Budgets Dave 15 min

- Basin includes seven states and scheduled to be held in Kanab, Utah at their fairly new event center that can hold up to 500 attendees. Utah is one of the states not requiring masks and providing vaccinations for those 14 years and older.
- Goals of symposium is how to reach out to more people and try to reach out to different organizations. This includes different conservancies, user groups, river companies, hikers, etc. The event is to allow a place for people to share. Symposium is in similar format to GCHS symposiums, 3 day event.
- Seeking sponsorships to pay for cost of facility and have gotten a few successful partners so far.
- Reaching out to partner organizations who can be a group that can help with offsetting the costs. Sent the board a symposium budget. Working with Brian B. to help with the accounting.
- Take 200 paid attendees to make this event break even including the comping 40-50 presenters who will not pay for registration but need to be responsible for own food & lodging as well as attendees.
- Excess funds will be allocated to partners who are nonprofit and based on their membership who attend. Organizations will provide a registration code to motivate their membership to attend and may be allocated a percentage of access funds. By having sponsors help fund the events to offset costs of the facility such as King County, City of Kanab who oversee facility.
- October 2021: this is when the event is to be held and people are eager to attend events, etc. The idea of zoom is not ideal nor does it meet the needs of the event.

- If cancelled there is a plan to handle refunds, etc. To make sure we have money, registration will start July 1, 2021. Online registration will allow a deadline for cancelling and dictate how much of the registration fee will be returned to the person who cancels.
- Is looking into online live streaming.
- Another goal for the symposium is to gather data for the GCHS (besides funds) which will provide potential people to contact and connect with. Contacted Happy Trails that Roy Rogers and Dale Evans started and it's where people privately own their tract of land, RV space and most are wealthy. They want to become a partner, clients are snowbirds who park their RVs, example of group coming in and potential to become members. If they get 20 or more people, they will be eligible to get a table space to advertise their organization. During the symposium, attendees will be able to network at the booths only during lunches and breaks so no one has to miss any presentations. Many people have volunteered including GCHS members. Another example is a quilting organization and they will be quilting in a room during the event. The visitor bureau is very interested in being involved and will provide a book on different things to do and visit in Utah. Another idea is to have the GCHS produce and sell the symposium proceedings so this will be a great way to fundraise. Call for proposals will go out and be advertised in the next few months.
- Brian: Saying to Robert that they will work together to set up QuickBooks and will talk off-line.
- Mari: good job to Dave M.
- Tom: Is there a way to do it a couple times a year? Good idea Dave is heading up. There are 40-50 speakers but it seems there is potential to have more speakers. Do you have the slots for speakers? Can you address the covid concern?
 - In response: Dave M. we will cancel if covid rates are of concern. A selection committee to choose presenters will be put together. Liability issue: he is checking on it and usually most places have their own liability insurance. Most attendees will be older folks and will most likely have been vaccinated. The question is whether we ask people if they've been vaccinated. If going by CDC guidelines which are all over the place so he feels that it's really up to the people's comfort levels. He met with a group of seniors who are happy to be vaccinated and about the possibility of getting together.
 - Tom: one of the things we may see with live events is to have proof of vaccination and other groups may not care to do that.
 - Dave: wearing masks is not a big deal but Dr. Fauci's recommendations are all over the place. In addition, call for proposals will be announced soon. Working with Tom to get more details on building a database on the website.
 - Dick: general board consensus for Dave to release call for proposals soon?
 - Helen: not comfortable with the event being live, large attendance and concerned that people will not keep masks on, have speakers understand it could be a virtual event or potentially be rescheduled. Perhaps moving it to the spring of 2022 could be a possibility but even if that means two symposia in one year but feel we can handle it. Consider communicating with the potentials presenters that it could be cancelled and moved to a virtual platform. Although there are political lines, we need to communicate and we should not blame anyone for our decision. We need to be fluid as a board and do the right thing for what we are trying to do.
 - Tom: you have the potential to bring in way more than 500 participants and if you went to a zoom, you could really expand and zoom potential is huge.
 - Dave: the goal is to keep down registration fee ~~down~~ for attendees, build a database for future outreach to recruit new members.

- Haley: I'm attending two large group events in September that require vaccination for each attendee no exceptions. Private organizations can do that. It's a great option.
- Symposium DATES: October 13-16, 2021
***See the call for vote below agenda item #16

15. 6th GCHS History Symposium Plans & Budgets

Wayne/Helen 10 min

- Second weekend in November 2022, Nov 10th: evening registration, social gathering, Nov 11-13, Shrine of the Ages @ GCNP which is currently reserved through NPS and Jan Balsom. Glad to see river symposium will be held on the North side of the GC and great way to expand our reach. Flagstaff is expensive so committee decided to go with Shrine of the Ages which is free.
- We have developed a theme which is Treasures of the Inner Canyon, Celebrating the Phantom Ranch Centennial. We have had this event on our radar since 2014 when we decided to get away from the five years and moved it up four years to a 2016 symposium which sets up for a 3 year occurrence when we celebrated park centennial in 2019. This event will be about anything GC, have been in touch with Addy Orensen who is new publications manager at GCC and they are interested in publishing proceedings and hopeful that it will be published in a timely manner. A new suggestion by Kevin S. to do a silent auction with items donated (fundraiser) such as a stay at a hotel in Jerome and a way to have people bring back souvenirs from event.
- Recommendation that after this event the next symposium be chosen at that time while still fresh in our minds. One reason for scheduling it in November 2022, we just didn't have the dates available to us in time for holding it in the spring of 2022. Didn't have enough lead time to schedule.
- Showed a document from 2010 from Lee Albertson who created a timeline and he worked backwards to create a proposed schedule and includes deadlines and tasks. Today we will approve holding the symposium with proposed theme. By the next board meeting, we will have contacted the board members for various tasks, have a proposed budget, by Feb 2022 have a call for abstracts, May 2022 have presenters and program set with selection committee, August 2022 will have online registration.
- Helen: says they have a tentative budget but need to have the rest of committee to chime in and tweak the budget as needed. Robert and Brian, we will have income and expected profits for you.
- Dave M.: recommend that you get your contract done so you know what needs to be done by a certain time so everyone knows what needs to be done and expected.
- Wayne: Richard Q has provided a timeline of the proceedings and has shared with the committee
- Nikki: Have been a part of lot of events who have made Tribal voices a large part of their events. We also have Deb Haaland, the new Secretary of Interior and it's a good opportunity to really highlight Native voices. The symposium can be largely inclusive of Native/Indigenous perspectives as she has talked with another board member.
- Helen: yes, it would help if Nikki or other board members be a part of the committee to help bring together a diversity of voices. The time is right and let's do it.
- David: I talked with Nikki and didn't realize the theme was a done deal or maybe it's not. We are in a point in time where Native people, international and not just the US, where recognition of everything to apologies, landback, a long period of time of neglect and abuse. It's a special time for the tribes and they are rightly feeling and making up, starting to regain a lot of lost grounds they have had to endure in the last 400 years. I see that in a lot of other events taking place. I see people are starting meetings with acknowledging whose ancestral lands we are occupying

at the moment. We have the Secretary of the Interior who is a Native resident of the Pueblo whose backyard is of the Grand Canyon region. Also has administrative responsibility for the National Park at the Grand Canyon, National Monuments, for the National Recreation areas, public lands that make up the landscape around the Grand Canyon. I think that would be an opportunity that we take advantage of and may not be there six or five years from now. It would be a chance to do justice in our own particular way of a millennium of Indigenous presence living in the canyon that we call grand. It sounds like it may not be timely any more. I appreciate the opportunity to put those words out.

- Wayne: One of the sub-themes that could be here would be the millennium at Phantom Ranch when you walk by the ruin there on the beach. You could say it's the first incarnation of Phantom Ranch, a different incarnation but an incarnation nonetheless. When we select the presentations to be found, I'm sure that Indigenous ideas will be well represented. In fact, I see that as one of the main sections of the symposium going forward. The main thing is that we have a solid date for the centennial of Phantom Ranch. By no means am I saying that is the only theme that will be thought of at this symposium.
- Tom: themes are important as Nikki has stressed and David introduced, there was not a theme for the first few symposia. It was meeting of historians and that allowed people to avoid the theme issue, then we brought in a theme for the formation of the national park service, then a theme for the start of the GCNP and now we are doing a theme on a hotel at the bottom of the canyon that caters to an elite group of people that sits on top of an Indigenous site that's been there for a millennium. It just seems like a perfect time to have a theme based on the millennium anniversary of the Bright Angel Pueblo which happens to have an upstart hotel called Phantom Ranch piled on top of it or nearby for the last hundred years. It's a great way to allow the Phantom Ranch to be a subset of the Bright Angel Pueblo occupation which really goes back a long way and segue to bring Indigenous peoples into the symposium. I recommend that the theme of this in 2022, I would encourage the them to be way more inclusive of the Indigenous populations that have a long history at the canyon.
- Approval to hold 2022 symposium and for the committee to proceed with the symposium plans as it exists right now and accommodating the suggestions we are having and to go ahead with the planning process.
 - 1st motion: Brian to accept proposal as presented by Helen and Wayne but as to Helen's suggestion that we give further consideration to the naming of the theme of the symposium.
 - 2nd motion: Kevin
 - Vote: 10 in favor
- ***We need to call for a vote for Dave M. to proceed with Colorado River symposium.
 - David: what does that entail?
 - Dick: it is for the call for papers is as the next step.
 - 1st motion: Brian Blue to accept the outline Dave has proposed for the Colorado River symposium
 - 2nd motion: Dick Brown
 - -Vote: approve = 9 and abstain =1

17. New Board Skills Matrix – Discussion

Nikki/Dick 4 min

- Nikki sent to the board for review and it shows what the talents the board has and will be used in the next election cycle.

- 18. Formation of a Collection Development Committee?** Dick 3 min
- Defer to later on
 - Not a repository but thinking about what might come to GCHS. Will discuss with Helen about NAU Cline agreement and if there is talk about collection committee.
- 19. Other Business/Discussion** Dick 5 min
- Mike and Barb Nelson are requesting funding to continue the work on the 1956 mid-air collision support group.
 - \$359 request to renew website, licensing and agreement. We have grant money to support this. Dick is asking to approve expense so Brian can reimburse expenses incurred.
 - Brian: Support the Nelson's and others have generously donated a dedicated fund for the continuing awareness and preservation of the history of the 1956 airline disaster. The monies are already sequestered and restricted and we still have funds that could support this request. I move to approve the \$359 to reimburse the Nelson's specifically to work on the website.
 - Motion to approve and reimburse expense:
 - 1st motion: Brian
 - 2nd motion: Tom
 - Vote: all in favor = 10
 - Brian requests that Mari talk about the financial audit and the report was sent out to the board.
 - The biggest hurdle encountered was Paypal due to not knowing much about it. Brian showed her the ropes and she reviewed a lot of material for a one month period. Everything looks pretty good. She learned a lot and was very impressed.
 - Brian requests the board to approve the audit.
 - 1st Motion: Tom to approve Mari's audit of Brian's treasury work.
 - 2nd Motion: Helen
 - All in favor: 8 votes and 1 abstain by Brian B.
 - Helen thanks Robert for joining the board and asks if Brian will send the board orientation material. If Robert needs anything, please reach out to the board. It's great to have him as a part of the board.
- 20. Next Board Meeting July 17, 2021 – Details TBD** Dick 3 min
- Not ready to set a date but will depend on what happens at Shoshone Point.
 - Adjourn: 12:08pm