

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday - January 6, 2010

The meeting was opened by President Lyman Platt. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The following were present at the meeting – Lyman Platt, Karen Platt, Elaine Tyler, George Cannon, Susan Crook, LoAnne Barnes, Jeanine Vander Bruggen, Joyce Whittaker, George Staheli, and Lynne Johnston.

Lyman explained a change he wanted to make in regard to the way the Minutes of the meetings are taken. He asked that each community representative e-mail the information they would like put into each months' Minutes to Lynne Johnston (secretary). Then at the meetings there would be more time to discuss the “working agenda”. He asked that they e-mail the information by the middle of each month.

Transfer of paperwork, files and bank accounts to current officers

Jeannette Bates is resigning as Treasurer of WCHS. Joyce Whittaker said she would get the files from Jeannette and bring them to the next meeting.

It was decided that Lyman and Joyce Whittaker would not go to Village Bank and Sun First Bank to update the signatures on the Signature Cards until a new Treasurer is found.

There is a deposit which needs to be made of \$1500 from Elaine Tyler (Beckam Ashe Foundation), a check from Lynne Johnston in the amount of \$75.00, and a check from Elaine Tyler for dues - \$15.00.

Jeanine Vander Bruggen wondered if DUP Museum had ever joined the WCHS. The consensus of the group was “No” they had not.

Materials Stored in Old Court House Basement

Elaine Tyler said she would make a Spread Sheet for the sale of the Prints and other saleable items which are stored there.

George Staheli said he had taken twelve (12) prints to sell at the Washington City Museum. Connie Childs has a record of the numbers on the prints which have been sold. LoAnne Barnes could take five (5) of each print to sell, but she would need a Contract of some sort. She also said she would go to the Art Museum to see if she could sell the “Legacy Book” and for what price. It was suggested that the Post Cards could be sold at the Rosenbruch Wildlife and Dinosaur Museums.

Permanent Home for WCHS

A discussion was held in regard to the use of the basement in the old Zion Bank Building for our storage space/room. It is located at Tabernacle Street and 100 West. George Staheli said he could check with Commissioner Eardly. Would the County Commissioner need to approve that? George Staheli made a motion to see what the possibility of leasing/ using the old Zion Bank for a permanent home and house the items which are stored at the Old County Courthouse. Karen Platt seconded the motion and everyone present said “aye”. Karen Platt and Elaine Tyler suggested we go visit the building. Lyman and Karen Platt will write a Proposal to give to the County Commission.

Petition for Permanent Funding for WCHS from County Tax Revenues

Lyman wondered if it would be possible to write an Initiative for a special Service District to add \$1.00 tax per household for Historical Services. He wondered about a Petition - how many signatures would be needed and/or get approval without a Petition. George Cannon wondered if WCHS could get money from the County – more like a Grant. Susan Crook stated that WCHS should “step up our efforts” to show that we are/have been committed to Washington County.

New Monthly Meeting Place

Some of the suggestions for a new place for WCHS to meet were – the St. George Library and the Washington City Library.

Jeanine Vander Bruggen offered the meeting room in the basement of the DUP Museum. The DUP Museum is located at 145 N. 100 E. in St. George. The meeting could be held on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of every month from 9 -11 AM.

George Staheli made the motion to change the WCHS meeting to the DUP Museum in their meeting room on the fourth (4th) Wednesday for the months of September thru May, from 9-11 AM. _____seconded the motion and everyone present said “Aye”.

The next WCHS meeting will be held on January 27th at 9 AM at the Museum.

Permission to Join Utah State Historical Society and Utah State Archeological Society

It was suggested that the WCHS join the Utah State Historical Society (\$25.00 per year) and the Utah Statewide Archeological Society (25.00 per year). Some of the benefits for joining these organizations are the following:

- Access to back issues on the internet
- The organizations will support WCHS
- Articles written by our members could be published

George Staheli made a motion and _____seconded the motion to join Utah State Historical Society and Utah Statewide Archeological Society. Everyone present said “Aye”.

Washington County Fair and Local Fairs and City Activities

Several of the committee members suggested that we volunteer our time to attend as WCHS some of the events such as the Washington County Fair, St. George Art Festival, etc. We could put together a pamphlet about the activities of the WCHS to hand out, answer questions about WCHS – in other words get more exposure to the community.

Joyce Whittaker said she talked to Gary Sanders about the possibility of getting a “free” booth at the upcoming St. George Art Festival. He said he would get back to her.

Utah Heritage Foundation

Susan Crook is the Utah Heritage Foundation’s Representative for Central and Southern Utah. Utah Heritage Foundation is participating in the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Partners in the Field Program. Susan is the Field Representative and has been working for Utah Heritage Foundation to provide technical assistance to property owners and communities in Central and Southern Utah.

Susan wondered if we needed to “vote” so that she could join WCHS. A “vote” was taken and everyone said “aye”. Susan is the newest member of WCHS!

Through Utah Heritage Foundation, grants can be applied for historic preservation. Susan is actively lobbying on preservation issues. “Historic” means fifty (50) years or older. She works to make sure the unincorporated communities have as much opportunity as communities or towns that have a Certified Local Government.

Susan has volunteered to hold a Seminar on February 17, 2010 at the Washington City Museum, from 9 – 11 AM. George Staheli has volunteered to provide a Continental Breakfast – be there at 8:45 AM. Anyone with an interest in historical preservation is invited to come to the Seminar. She would like to notify the Mayors or City Councils to send a representative, designated as their Historic Preservation representative. She wondered if she could enlist our help in advertising for the meeting.

Other Items Which Were Not on the Agenda

Joyce Whittaker made a motion that we nominate and elect Lyman Platt as President of WCHS and all other officers as listed. Susan Crook seconded the motion and all of those present said “aye”.

Lyman and Joyce decided to wait until we have a new Treasurer before they go to Village Bank and Sun First Bank to update the Signature Cards.

Community Reports

Leeds – LoAnne Barnes

The Tithing House in Leeds (owned by Beesley Family of Salt Lake City) has come up for sale. This is a significant historic building in Leeds. The new Mayor Hyrum Lefler has formed a committee to look into possible ways to acquire and preserve the building. The LDS Church sold the building to Joseph Beesley in 1964 for \$500.00. It has an interesting history (sign in front of the Tithing House) and on the WCHS Web page.

The February WCHS Tour will be on February 6th to Leeds. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Leeds Town Hall. We will visit the CCC Camp site (most intact camp in Utah with four (4) buildings). A Tithing House built in 1890's, two historical cemeteries and the Wells Fargo Silver Reef Museum.

Chamber of Commerce – Russ Behrmann

I will not be able to attend your next meeting, but I'd like to pass on a little information about the Old Historic Courthouse. The city has started a study to see what they need to do to preserve some elements of the building that are suffering. A consultant has been hired and visits by physical facility experts, electricians and historical restoration experts have already happened. Because of tight budgets it isn't likely all of the needed items will be addressed at one time, but the study will result in a list that can be presented to the city so that priorities can be determined and so some work on the building can begin as funds are available. Most likely the first improvements will be electrical and fire prevention related. I will be happy to share the results of the study once it has been presented to the City and the Chamber of Commerce. Thanks, Russell Behrmann, St. George Area Chamber of Commerce.

New Harmony – Rolaine King

We are small and have not done much. The snow and fire are taking a lot of time. I went as "organization head" to the BLM to tell them my historical objections to the windmills. The Red Butte is on BLM land so we should get the eligible for historical register through them. New Harmony town is small and not many available to do historical things. It has become a dying population and new busy young people. The Snowflower hike, the Egg Hunt and Arts Festival of New Harmony Art and Artists on our Founders Celebration Day plus the seed display for the County Fair is about all that we will get done this year. The Arts Festival I have a lot of interest in. I like that we get many pioneer pictures done and get photographers interested. I will report on the meeting with the Redds next time. Our Facebook contacts with the younger set keep increasing. We hope to improve our website. I haven't done anything for WCHS except answer George when he asks for things. I'll send my fees (if I end up being the only representative New Harmony has). What are your expectations, someone to be active in aiding WCHS or to tell what New Harmony Historical is doing? The town doesn't do history – we are it, but unrecognized as a unit of the town. Baby steps!

