

APPROVED

**BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING**

**July 20, 2023**

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Hybrid

Anchor Location: Utah State History, 3760 S. Highland Drive, SLC

Virtually, via Zoom

**ATTENDEES:**

**BOARD:**

Molly Cannon, Chair  
Ignacio Garcia  
David Rich Lewis  
Tara Beresh

Spencer Hall, Vice Chair  
Margaret Olson  
Axel Ramirez

Jami Van Huss  
David Richardson  
Kim Wilson

**UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Jennifer Ortiz  
Jessica Proctor  
Doug Misner  
Michelle Gollehon  
Wendy Rex Atzet

Kevin Fayles  
Veronica Solano  
Mark Melville  
Lisa Barr  
Damon Ludlow

Alycia Rowley  
Tim Glenn  
Holly George  
Sabrina Sanders

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Elliot Clark  
Kirsten Vanderbilt  
Jack Bailey

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Jill Love  
Sarina Ehrgott  
Ellen Weist

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**WELCOME**

Molly Cannon opened the meeting. She asked Spencer Hall to run the meeting because she was having audio issues. Spencer welcomed new staff members of the Utah Historical Society: Haile VanPatten, Director of Marketing & Communications, and Jessica Proctor, Director of Development & Membership. He welcomed two new part-time staff members: Tanner Gannaway and Elianna Massey and four History Ambassadors: Kyler Wakefield and Emma Webb (Women's History), Damon Ludlow (National History Day), and Megan Garcia (Collections). Jessica Proctor was present at the meeting and introduced herself to the board. Spencer welcomed Elliot Clark and his team: Kristin Vanderbilt and Jack Bailey. Jack and Kirsten introduced themselves to the Board.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2023 BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING**

Spencer Hall asked for a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 minutes. Kim Wilson moved to approve the

minutes. Jami Van Huss seconded the motion. Alycia Rowley did a roll call: Molly Cannon – aye; Spencer Hall – aye; Ignacio Garcia – aye; David Richardson – aye; Axel Ramirez – aye; Jami Van Huss – aye; Kim Wilson – aye. The motion passed with majority approval.

#### **UHS BRAND REDESIGN UPDATE**

Sarina Ehrgott updated the Board on the Utah Historical Society's rebranding. She shared the efforts that went into the rebranding process and introduced the brand redesign visuals. She mentioned the Division's website is also undergoing redesigning.

#### **MUSEUM OF UTAH REPORT**

Tim Glenn gave a presentation to the Board about the museum design development completion. Board members were provided with a timeline for the museum's ongoing development, as well as a chance to review the design and content for the museum. Board Members provided feedback on the museum's programming.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Jill Love updated the Board on the America 250 Commission. Over the next few months, the commission will develop goals and plans for the state to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country. She mentioned that the legislature had appropriated funds for the STEM Action Center to create a maker's space in Convergence Hall at the Point of the Mountain.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jennifer Ortiz provided an update on the Locomotive 223 Taskforce. She thanked Kim Wilson and David Richardson for their involvement, as well as Doug Misner and Sabrina Sanders from the Collections Team. Elliot Clark will guide the Utah Historical Society as it meets with the City of Ogden at the end of August. An appraisal of the locomotive will take place to help inform decision making.

Jennifer walked the Board through the Big Picture Public Event List to provide an understanding of the events being planned for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. She mentioned part of the website redesign will involve a public-facing calendar of events.

Jennifer invited the Board to attend the Peoples of Utah Revisited (POUR) Kickoff Symposium on August 12th. She explained that the event is meant to provide resources for scholars who are interested in improving their research and writing skills.

#### **REVIEW OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIP**

Spencer Hall reviewed the Board's committees and mentioned that some of them still do not have Board member participation. He encouraged interested members to reach out to Jennifer Ortiz regarding committees of expertise or interest. Jennifer explained the Museum of Utah and the Fundraising and Development Committees are still being configured. She encouraged Board participation in committees, as well as referrals to colleagues.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Spencer Hall thanked Haille VanPatten for her work transforming the Utah Historical Society's social media presence. Her work has resulted in greater engagement and more followers. Social media rebranding efforts will be completed in phases beginning on July 22nd.

Haille will be working with program managers on a communications plan.

#### **AWARDS AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Jennifer Ortiz reminded the Board that nominations for both the Outstanding Achievement Award and the Helen Z. Papanikolas Awards are now being accepted online. She encouraged the Board to submit nominations

for either award. She mentioned the awards ceremony will now be held in January during Utah History Month. The next award ceremony will be held on January 8th at the Governor's Mansion.

Holly George gave an update on the joint conference collaboration with the National Council on Public History (NCPH), which will be held April 10-13, 2024. A call for papers has been extended to gather more proposals.

#### **GOVERNOR SPENCER COX VISITED THE BOARD OF STATE HISTORY**

Governor Cox stepped in to speak with the Board and Utah Historical Society staff. He thanked everyone for their work and expressed his excitement for the Museum of Utah. Molly Cannon thanked Governor Cox for his support of the Board of State History, the Utah Historical Society, and the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement.

#### **UTAH OPEN & PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (OPMA)**

Elliot Clark, from the Attorney General's Office, provided the Board with the annual OPMA training.

#### **APPROVAL OF AWARDS POLICY UPDATE**

The Board reviewed edits to the Awards Policy provided by UHS staff. The edits largely revolve around when the awards ceremony will take place. This has been changed due to the switch to an every other year model for the annual state history conference. Additional edits are to address the name change to the Utah Historical Society.

Molly inquired about the Board's name and if it would also be changed. Kevin Fayles clarified that the Board's name remains the same for now. Jennifer added that it will be considered in the next legislative session.

Spencer Hall asked for a motion to approve. David Richardson made a motion to approve the Awards policy update. Kim Wilson seconded the motion. Alycia Rowley did a roll call: Molly Cannon – aye; Spencer Hall – aye; Ignacio Garcia – aye; David Richardson – aye; Axel Ramirez – aye; Jami Van Huss – aye; Kim Wilson – aye. The motion passed with majority approval.

#### **BOARD BYLAWS UPDATE**

Jennifer Ortiz explained the changes to the bylaws are to reflect the name change from the Utah Division of State History to the Utah Historical Society.

David Richardson introduced a motion to approve the Board bylaw update. Kim Wilson seconded the motion. Alycia Rowley did a roll call. Molly Cannon – aye; Spencer Hall – aye; Ignacio Garcia – aye; David Richardson – aye; Axel Ramirez – aye; Jami Van Huss – aye; Kim Wilson – aye. The motion was passed with majority approval.

#### **GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Kevin Fayles informed the Board that for any new feature or landmark, the committee will seek County, landowner, and if relevant, tribal input on a proposed name. The committee tabled four proposals to allow for more information gathering before taking action at the next meeting. There is uncertainty within the Committee about the tribal contacts at the federal level and whether tribes are receiving information regarding proposals. The Division of Indian Affairs has been providing assistance in this matter to facilitate communication.

#### **ADJOURN**

Spencer Hall asked if there were any other items to be discussed. There were none brought up. The meeting was adjourned.