

The regular meeting of the Surface Creek Valley Historical Society was called to order at 5:30 P.M. Those attending were Jerry McHugh, Sheri McFadden, Donna Aragon, Diana Clayton, Katie Voss, Brooke Toothaker, Tyler Curtis, Greg Hart and guests Andrea Klouser and Bill Tuttle.

The agenda was approved, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Jerry introduced Bill Tuttle to the group; Bill has recently moved back to Cedaredge and is interested in becoming involved in helping with the Historical Society.

Reports on Strategic Planning:

1. Membership: 2023 memberships are now due. There are 43 lifetime memberships, 4 new memberships, and 11 renewals so far. 98 (2022) members have not renewed at this date. Jerry suggested that the board should set a goal for membership. Discussion followed regarding incentives or benefits for membership. Reciprocal arrangements with other area museums might be a way to raise more interest. This would not bring a financial advantage, but it would perhaps be an incentive. The subject was tabled until the February meeting.
2. Rental: Brooke reported that several contracts are in the works. One wedding is planned for January 22.

She also shared information about a Wedding Expo that is being sponsored by Magic 93.1. The cost for attending is [REDACTED]. Brooke thinks that she can be prepared to attend fairly easily. A wedding video is already created, and some materials need to be created. It was moved and seconded to pay for entry in the event. The motion passed. An additional budget of [REDACTED] was approved for a station sign and other visuals. This event should add some rental exposure.

Brooke also handed out copies of the current rental contracts. Some editing issues were addressed, but Brooke has highlighted those. The contract cancellation segment is the main area of concern. Discussion followed. The contract states that the renter may receive one-half of the deposit and the full rental fee if the renter cancels "no less than three weeks prior to the Rental Period." Sheri moved that the deposit would be paid at the time of the contracted agreement and that the cancellation period be extended to one month, at which time the renter would forfeit the deposit amount. After discussion, Sheri rescinded the motion. Perhaps the renter should forfeit the deposit regardless of time of cancellation. Or maybe 2 or 3 months would be enough time to rebook an event. Deposits are fairly low. More discussion followed. The issue was tabled until the next meeting. Brooke will try to learn how other venues handle cancellations when she attends the Wedding Expo. A question was raised about whether members might receive a discount on rentals. This question is tabled.

Increasing Event Income:

Barn Tour: Jerry reported that he and others continue to explore the idea. No firm plans are in place yet.

Capital Improvements

Stolte Shed: progress is good. The plywood has been purchased, and Big John's will deliver when we are ready. It will take about a week to prepare the plywood, then it will be installed. Brooke said that the time between February 26 – March 11 has not been contracted. It was agreed to set aside this time for installation, and prep work will be done before this time. The materials may be stored in the old carriage house until workers are ready. A crew of volunteers is required for the preparation, but the installation should go quickly.

Electrical: Greg reported that he contacted five electrical contractors for work on the garbage disposal and perhaps wiring for an electric stove. The first contractor noted many code violations that should be addressed (GFI outlets in kitchen; problems with the panel box). Other contractors supplied bids as well. A dedicated circuit for an electric range is part of the work, correcting the furnace wiring, and wiring for a garbage disposal. Long discussion followed. Should we repair the gas range or purchase a new one? Should we replace with electric? It was moved and seconded to hire a contractor to correct the code violations, the furnace, and wire for the disposal. In addition, the board approved purchase of a new gas range rather than an electric range. Greg will contact Griner Electric for completion of the electrical work. (Note here: who will look into purchase of gas range?)

Decking for the Stolte Shed: Sheri reported that Sam Anderson is willing to mill 500 sq. ft. of rough-cut lumber for the decking at a cost of [REDACTED]. Greg asked if we had looked at structural issues or other repair requirements. Sheri suggested that a budget of [REDACTED] is reasonable given today's lumber prices. Bill asked if anyone else had been contacted for lumber; a man who lives in the Eckert area also does lumber milling. Ultimately, Bill Tuttle agreed to contact him to inquire about his price.

Roof Repairs: the hole in the Colby store has been temporarily repaired. Jerry has asked for a bid to replace the shake roof. Hamilton's bid was [REDACTED] for replacing the shake roof. A question was raised about other bids and/or materials. Jerry agreed to look into other materials and other contractors. This issue was tabled until more information can be gathered.

Increasing Grant Revenue: Grants may be available to assist with capital improvements. Western Colorado Community Foundation, History Colorado, and the Surface Creek Fund. Work on this will continue.

Education: Brooke is working on reorganizing and researching the Indian Museum exhibit. She will have a plan in place by next meeting.

She is also working on planning the temporary exhibits (photography) and others for the Welcome Center. Much work is required for this plan. Perhaps the States artwork could be relocated to the space where the photography exhibit is currently placed.

Walking Tour: work is continuing here. Videography and scripts should be completed before May opening.

Eckert Cemetery: Donna gave all notes, copies of donations, and related materials to Greg so that he could send personal notes to donors. Interest and response has been high. Either Greg or Jerry will attend the next Eckert Cemetery board meeting.

Jerry suggested moving the next Buried History program to the Eckert Cemetery.

Historical Preservation Board:

Greg has been tracking the chronology of the preservation board. The town council disengaged the board, and it was absorbed into the Historical Society some time ago; Greg wants to look into how this group might be included as a more active part of the historical society by revising the current bylaws and continuing the work of the preservation board. Greg will continue to look into how this might work and whether the bylaws need to be ratified by the board or by the membership at large.

Advisory group: An opening for the SCVHS Board of Directors must be filled. Sheri's term is officially over. Jerry is willing to take another term. If anyone is interested, please contact a board member. Some discussion followed about the time investment from board members and the importance of volunteer help. More people are required to make the board's mission successful.

Snow removal: Donna has contacted S&E Ward's landscaping for our snow removal requirements. For [REDACTED] each time, the company will take care of plowing and shoveling.

Tyler Curtis presented information about the new Square software needs. [REDACTED] will purchase the required materials. It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri McFadden