

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HILLSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 1, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hillsboro Historical Society (HHS) held its monthly meeting on March 1, 2025.

In attendance; Joseph Britton, Kathleen Blair, Ewa Czarnojanczyk, Steve Dobrott, Jeff Forbes, Val Hildreth-Werker, Karen Mast, Nichole Trushell and Robin Tuttle.

The meeting was convened at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes. The minutes were approved with one correction as noted in the Financial Report.

Financial Report. Dobrott reported that due to the installation of the new solar panels, the electrical bill for the museum for February was \$45 less than it had been for January. Revenues for the museum in February were greater than expenses, including sales in the gift shop on February 28 of \$728. Total Liabilities and Equity are presently \$227,098. The Activity by Class for February 2025 was \$1,143.39. The Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2025 was \$229,048.76. Czarnojanczyk noted that she, not Dobrott, had sent the final statements to the Board following the February meeting. This correction was made to the minutes for February 1, 2025. Czarnojanczyk will email the financial reports for March to Board members.

Publications Report. Britton reported the publication of the February GZP with the lead article "United States vs. Edward D. Tittmann: The Dangers of Free Speech during World War 1." In addition to the message from the President of the HHS, Blair submitted "Black Range Museum Bookshelf Notes" and Dobrott authored "Mystery Solved in the Saga of the Mountain Pride." Britton will assure that copies of the GZP are provided to local libraries and museums in TRC and Kingston.

Britton noted that the murals displayed on the walls of the HCC kitchen were painted for, and paraded during, Hillsboro's centennial celebration in 1977. Future editions of the GZP may note possible celebrations in 2027 of the 150 years since the founding of Hillsboro in 1877. Blair noted her contact with Bobby Hale on the possible publication of the collection of photos taken of the area by Sonny Hale. Blair will do further research on whether these photos may have already been collected in some format and may be archived at the Hillsboro Community Library.

Black Range Museum Report. Blair reported that she had ordered additional caps with the HHS imprint for the museum gift shop to be sold for \$20. Janie Dobrott's hats and Bill Lindendau's jewelry are accounting for 75% of sales in dollars in the gift shop. Most sales overall are made between 11 – 1 on Saturdays. The new open sign donated by Dobrott is now in use outside the museum. Visitor comments indicate particular interest in the Medical History room, especially among Hispanic women. Deb Brandt of Kingston is a possible presenter on curanderismo. Blair is continuing to explore the use of rack cards to note the hours the museum is open. A member of the Board suggested that museum hours be included in the HHS newsletter, along with information on membership in the HHS. The Board discussed the possible purchase of a metal open sign. Trushell will research the use of a sign maker online where the HHS had its metal sign Museum sign made. The Board deferred discussion of whether to purchase a domain potentially available for use by the HCC as a means to remove it from use by other websites.

Coach House and Coach House Progress. Dobrott reported on a presentation he was invited to make in Mesilla to the Friends of Pat Garrett on continuing efforts by the HHS to secure the Mountain Pride from the museum in Lincoln. The group appeared interested and indicated support for the effort.

Dobrott also had the opportunity to speak with the DCA site manager in Mesilla.

Dobrott further noted that he had written to Matt Barbour Deputy Director of NM Historical Sites, to inquire if Barbour, had heard recently from the State's Historical Preservation Division concerning a decision on the Mountain Pride Project scope of work. Barbour indicated that the process was continuing to work its way through the various collection committees and mentioned the possibility of a "swap out" to the benefit of both communities and museums. Barbour urged a "modicum of patience" with the process but could offer nothing more specific on the record.

Back Yard Plan and Costing. Trushell reported that she and Steve Morgan used the plan they had developed for the back yard project to meet with Craig Stookey and his staff to begin costing the project. They will meet again once Morgan returns from travel.

Oral History Committee. Trushell reported that she and Forbes had met and discussed the use of our video camera to record the oral history interviews. Garland Bills will also serve on the committee, which will meet again on March 4. Jan Haley and Quail O'Connor are available to conduct and record interviews. Mark Edwards is interested in serving on the committee and perhaps interviewing Lonnie Rubio. The committee will develop a release form. Joe Montoya (?) has provided film of past interviews on Google. Trushell noted that we have system/process for interviews (that came from the Farm and Ranch Museum). Forbes noted the possible use of AI transcription, which would still require the need to "fix" a few words from voice recognition. Trushell indicated that a friend in Silver City is available to assist in transcription. There would still be a need for hard copy back up.

Walking Tour Progress. Trushell reported that Susan Roebuck had submitted a draft of the Walking Tour which had been submitted to Garland Bills to edit. The draft map, text and photos, taken by Roebuck, will ultimately be posted online in pdf for visitor download and use. Trushell will email it to members of the Board for their review.

Membership Issues and Updated Approach (2025). Trushell indicated that some of the membership application forms are missing, having been treated as donations rather than applications. Trushell and Czarnojanczyk have updated the membership process.

Art Walk. Dobrott attended a planning meeting called by the organizers of the March 28 Hillsboro Art Walk and suggested ways to the Board in which the HHS might support and participate. On March 6, Blair prepared a poster for review by the Board noting the activities planned at the Museum during the Walk. The draft poster and activities were approved by the Board to read:

The Black Range Museum will be open with extended hours and with extra exhibits for the 152 Art Walk. Come see our new coach house, plans for our new backyard landscaping and community space, our updated Hillsboro Historic Walking tour, meet our gift shop artists giving demonstrations, and our local writers signing their books! Become a member and support the Hillsboro Historical Society!

Highway 27 Clean-up. Blair noted that the Highway 27 BRM clean-up be on either March 26 or April 28. Note – since the meeting Blair has set the clean-up for April 22, Earth day.

Fire truck. Dobrott reported that he has submitted a long-term loan agreement to Fire Chief Tom Lander transferring the fire truck from the HHS to the Fire Department. The agreement is being reviewed by the attorney for Sierra County.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.