

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HILLSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY May 3, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hillsboro Historical Society (HHS) held its monthly meeting on May 3, 2025.

In attendance were: Joseph Britton, Ewa Czarnojanczyk, Steve Dobrott, Val Hildreth-Werker, Kasen Mast, Nichole Trushell (by phone) and Robin Tuttle.

The meeting was convened at 9:07 a.m.

Minutes. The minutes of March meeting were approved.

Financial Report. Czarnojanczyk provided the statement of activity by class, the balance sheet and the profit loss for April. She noted cash on hand and other current assets of \$41,688.60. This included donations and new memberships. Gift shop sales have been steady and were increased by sales of about \$800 to visitors from the State Department of Cultural Affairs during their site visit on April 29. The report was adopted on a motion by Hildreth -Werker and seconded by Mast.

Publications. Britton reported that the next quarterly GZP will be published in May and will include a main article on the 1977 Centennial celebration of, and parade for, the founding of Hillsboro. Britton noted that the murals in the HCC kitchen were painted for the celebration. The coach included in the parade was not the Mountain Pride; but possibly belonged to a commercial vendor. The GZP will be sent by e-mail to the HCC distribution list. It will include a message from President Dobrott about the Department of Cultural Affairs site visit on April 29.

Black Range Museum Report. Eco caps and books have been selling well and the Museum has received a new shipment of both. Czarnojanczyk confirmed that the Museum will have a table on the porch during the Community Mother's Day Sale

on Saturday, May 10. However, given the unavailability of volunteers, the Museum will be closed on Friday, May 9 and Sunday, May 11.

Coach House and Coach House Progress. The Board noted the efforts of the State Department of Cultural Affairs to digitize its History Museum files. The HHS may offer to collaborate with the DCA on these efforts. The work of Joe Britton, Harley Shaw and Garland Bills to digitize photos of the Mountain Pride is one area of possible collaboration.

Dobrott noted continuing discussion with the State on whether the Mountain Pride might be loaned or transferred outright to the HHS. Billy Garrett, Executive Director of the History Museum of New Mexico, prefers a transfer. Dobrott expects a decision by the Board of Regent by May 15. Whether loaned or transferred, the HHS would consider any restoration of the coach once it arrives at the BRM.

Note: Previously, on April 2, Dobrott wrote to George Goldstein, President of the Museum of New Mexico Board of Regents (BOR) noting that Deborah Garcia y Griego, the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Cultural Affairs had requested that Dobrott contact Goldstein regarding the transfer of the coach. A response is not anticipated until the matter is considered and voted on at the next BOR meeting on May 15.

On May 5, following the DCA's April 29, site visit, Dobrott and Garcia y Griego exchanged letters. Dobrott read Garcia y Griego's response as a positive indication that Hillsboro is "now on the map." Specifically Garcia y Griego wrote she very much looks "forward to continuing to work together on matters of mutual interest including the Mountain Pride project and other future endeavors."

Site Visit by the State Department of Cultural Affairs. The Board agreed that the April 29 site visit was a grand success. Dobrott e-mailed the Board on April 30 "Just want to say thanks to all of

you who made yesterday a resounding success for HHS and Hillsboro at large. It was great to see the teamwork and dedication that it took to pull it off, even in the face of significant schedule changes [when curators from the Santa Fe Museum arrived at 12:00]. But it worked and I think we got our point across to those who make the decisions in DCA. Each of you had an important part to play in that success and you should be proud of your efforts. Not a bad day for the gift shop either!”

Jeff Forbes also sent an e-mail to the Board on April 30 adding that “The walking tour was great! Some of the highlights I noted included visiting and chatting with Lisa [Curt, now President of the HCC] in the HCC auditorium, Joe's informative and humorous presentation at the Union Church, Garland & Steve sharing their deep knowledge at the Courthouse/Jail site (with the beautiful new signs), and finally a nice presentation by Joe about how Sir Victor Sassoon ended up in Hillsboro. The many informal small discussions as we walked along were also wonderful. To say that our visitors were impressed would be an understatement. What a fun and memorable day! “

Back Yard Plan and Costing. Steve Morgan and Nichole Trushell described the current state of planning for the back yard. Morgan stressed the importance of tying together the installation of the coach in the coach house and the work in the back yard.

The coach house and shed still require gutters. A maintenance building behind the shed may be a useful addition. Doug Hansen of the Hansen Wagon Wheel Shop has not yet been asked to commit to a date and an amount to transport the coach. The early estimate in 2022 for disassembling, transporting and reassembling the coach at the BRM was \$11,000. Dobrott estimated that it might be closer to \$15,000 now. Hansen will be asked to submit an updated proposal upon a final decision on the transfer by the State. Currently,

the HHS has this amount in its cash on hand account to cover the cost.

Morgan has had discussions with several contractors, including Craig Stookey of Kingston, about the work in the backyard. Stookey was the only local contractor to choose from. Should the HHS engage a contractor from Las Cruces, it would cost significantly more; Dobrott believes half again as much.

Morgan expects a detailed cost breakdown and contract from Stookey, possibly by May 10. He could begin work by then; but the HHS would need to commit starter money and review and approve a budget. Morgan suggested the backyard project begin with earthwork and grading. Stookey is willing to donate his labor for plantings, which could amount to \$4,000 or \$5,000.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of concrete pads and pavers and how to combine the use of both, primarily using concrete with pavers in small areas for interest. The landscape design is ADA compliant.

The Board began a discussion of how to fund the work in the backyard. This needs further discussion. One possibility is that Steve Morgan will describe the project in a presentation at the HCC auditorium or in the backyard to introduce it to community, some of whom might then consider donating to the effort. Nichole Trushell and Steve Morgan will develop a fundraising plan and will approach major donors with an appeal for funding.

2025 Conference Historical Society of New Mexico. Britton, the current President of the HSNM, noted that its annual conference will be held in Las Cruces September 25 – 27. 2025. The HHS agreed to commit \$100 as a sponsor on motion by Hildreth-Werker, seconded by Tuttle.

Fire Truck, After discussion and agreement by the Board, Dobrott sent a letter on May 5 to Amber Vaughn, the Manager of Sierra County, reading:

"This is to inform you and the Commission that the board of Directors of the Hillsboro Historical Society voted unanimously on May 3rd, 2025 to transfer ownership of the vintage truck to our local fire department.

If approved by the County, this will fulfill our mutual desires to place the truck on display at the "firehouse." We believe that this action will absolve HHS from all liabilities and any need for an additional insurance burden as stipulated in the draft loan agreement of March 18, 2025.

HHS is pleased to make this offer with the understanding that the truck will be cared for and proudly exhibited in front of the firehouse and remain in Hillsboro.

Upon approval by the Commission, HHS will be happy to provide the appropriate documentation of the transfer to the County."

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24.