

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
Uinta County Museum, Evanston
June 13-14, 2008

Present: David Reetz, Tom Empey, Mike Shonsey, Barbara Smith, Sara Needles

Staff: Renee Bovée

Grant Reviewers: Rita Basom, Wyoming Arts Council, Jim Allison, Wyoming State Museum, Marcia Britton, Wyoming Humanities Council

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

The Agenda approved by consensus.

Chair David Reetz welcomed Barbara Smith to the board. He also welcomed the grant reviewers and thanked them for their hard work.

Mike Shonsey moved and Tom Empey seconded to approve the February 22, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Empey moved and Shonsey seconded to recommend Reetz to continue to serve as board president. No additional nominations were brought forward. Empey moved and Barbara Smith seconded that nominations close. The board unanimously approved of David Reetz as chair. Reetz expressed his thanks for their support.

Reetz noted that the Trust is mentioned in the Wyoming Business Council report and held forward a copy on to the board.

Department Update

Needles provided an update on Department activities. Cultural Heritage Tourism is the number one Interim Topic for review by the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources (TRWCR) legislative committee. In May the TRWCR met in Thermopolis where Milward Simpson and Needles presented a background on what is heritage tourism and how this can be addressed in Wyoming. Needles noted the smaller communities and organizations in Wyoming and the challenges they face in working together. An example was presented to the TRWCR, the Utahø Heritage Corridor Program that provides grant dollars between \$5,000 and \$50,000 (appropriated from legislature) to provide incentive to organizations to work together in creating corridors. Marketing and promoting is also an element of this process. There was also a presentation on State of Wyoming historic sites, especially the unmanned sites, which need to be part of the heritage tourism efforts

but need support and development first. Additionally, there have been conversations with Wyoming Tourism, which notes that they don't do niche marketing, but they already promote many of our sites in their ongoing campaigns. Tourism really needs this department to "feed them the stories" which can be used in their campaigns.

The additional interim topic is cleaning up the legislative language for the Wyoming Arts Council. The next TRWCR meeting will be in Evanston, July 8 and 9. Chair Reetz noted that he may be able to come down to that meeting. Needles noted the next two tasks involved in this process: meeting with the TRWCR and telling them what we need done and secondly, getting the funding for state parks to take care of what they have already before it is promoted (protection before promoting). Chair Reetz also suggested getting Representative Debbie Hammons participating in these discussions as she has experience in this process as she has worked on several initiatives in her area. There was general discussion on how several thematic tours could be routed through the state and promoted through the Tourism trip-planning website.

Needles has also been talking to the various programs within the department to discuss opportunities for additional fundraising: i.e. the State Museum and the development of a foundation to help attract donations projects such as bringing in traveling exhibitions, etc. Reetz noted the value of the legislative match (such as exists with the University of Wyoming and the community colleges) in drawing in new dollars. Shonsey noted the local collaborations that may occur with such ideas as the new Cheyenne local arts council working with the state in assisting in promoting and presenting the state art collection, etc.

Reetz requested that Needles provide the Board with the Powerpoint presentations from Simpson, herself and Todd Thibodeau that were presented at the TRWCR meeting in Thermopolis.

WCTF Update

Bové provided a brief update on our grant recipients and the status of several projects. She regularly prepares a spreadsheet to keep track of the projects and final reports. She reported on the successful completion of the architectural study of the Cheyenne Little Theater's Atlas Theater in preparation for the renovation and restoration of that space; the completion and distribution of the booklet by the Wyoming Humanities Council for new residents; the U.W. American Studies Program was finally able to get the Pine Bluff's charette scheduled and it occurred in May just after the Preserve Wyoming conference and there was good discussion and input from the community on possible future uses of the old High School at that meeting; additionally, she noted the successful, and rapid, conclusion of the Lander Community Concert Association endowment campaign. Chair Reetz inquired about any projects that have "stalled". Bové noted while several projects have received extensions they really haven't stalled, but rather have run into the typical road blocks which have slowed down the process.

Empey inquired on the status of the position. Bovée explained that until the final position description has been approved, she will be working with a short-term contract extension. Needles clarified that the position description is currently at Administration & Information (A&I) for review and when it has been approved, we will be able go through the application, interview and hiring process. Chair Reetz inquired whether the WCTF board will be involved in the selection process. Needles noted that it will most likely involve Simpson, herself and possibly Mary Hopkins, as the position will include providing support for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) grants. The challenge Needles has faced is the position was actually given to SHPO, but with the Governor's suggestion that the position be split. Needles had to keep the position under her supervision to avoid conflicts of interest with SHPO applying for WCTF Funds, yet still providing some grant support to SHPO. Additionally, it is anticipated that this position will be providing some grant support to the State Historical Society as well. Empey noted that having that having the same person assisting all these granting programs should help our future grant applicants as they seek assistance and guidance on these projects especially if we eventually require advance approval from SHPO on historic preservation projects.

Bovée noted the very successful Preserve Wyoming Conference that occurred in May in Cheyenne. There were approximately 125 attendees. Smith attended the conference and found it very interesting and the outside keynotes were enthusiastic; people were all fired up to preserve historic buildings. It was noted that as part of the Grass Roots Advocacy session, there were several Cheyenne folks who presented about the threat to several historic homes around the Historic Governor's mansion and thus several folks picketed the neighborhood and the local press did several stories on the issue.

There was general discussion on a perceived change in the state in the interest of preserving our historic buildings. Rita Basom noted that the decision to work on the Arts Council legislation was timed at this time to utilize the friendly nature of the current legislature and within the department itself.

Marcia Britton also wished to inform the WCTF Board that the Humanities Council will be approaching the legislature for state funding, as they are currently one of the few state Humanities Councils not getting that support. If it is obtained, it would be pass-through grant of an agency of state government, perhaps through State Parks & Cultural Resources (SPCR), but they do not anticipate becoming a state agency themselves.

Budget Update

Bovée reviewed the grant dollars available for this grant round. She noted the difference between the available dollars now and the report provided in February, which contained some incorrect figures due to changes in the accounting system and reports provided. At this point we have approximately \$400,000 available for this grant round. She also reviewed the projections that incorporate the additional \$1.5 million as of July 1, 2008. Based on current interest earnings, it is anticipated that with the increase in the corpus we will have approximately \$500,000 available for an annual grant deadline.

Bovée then reviewed the general expenses of the program to date. Bovée reminded the board that when the legislature approved the position that was proposed as the SHPO position, that meant we did not get the administrative dollars for the program which we were asking for. Thus, next year's general expenses (travel, board meetings, conference calls, etc.) will continue to be paid from the Division of Cultural Resources administrative lines. Chair Reetz expressed his appreciation of the Division and the Department to continue to support the costs of the program.

Bovée then remarked on a conversation she had with Sen. Mike Massie at the recent TRWCR meeting. He had inquired as to how things were going for the Cultural Trust Fund, and she responded that the fund really needed additional dollars in order to better meet the need demonstrated throughout the state. He noted that we need to ask for it and that this may be a good time to ask as the state is still experiencing higher than normal revenues.

A general discussion was held on the parity, or lack thereof, between the Cultural Trust Fund and the Wildlife & Natural Resources Trust Fund. Apart from the financial differences between the two programs, there is also a larger board that has direct responsibility to evaluate applicants in the field. So their administrative budget is geared to accommodate that additional board travel. It was noted that when the percentages and ratios are run, there is a very comparable percentage of requests to available grant dollars and also our leveraging of local dollars is within a percentage point of each other.

Needles noted that in a recent discussion with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the idea of changing how mitigation of damage to historic sites could be funneled into a pool for obtaining easements to protect the viewshed of historic sites, much like the easements for the conserving of a natural environment. The idea could be focused into a separate granting pool administered by the Cultural Trust. Bovée noted that if or when this idea matures, we would have to deal with the limitations of our enabling legislation that restricts our awarding to nonprofit and governmental entities, and easements require distribution to individual landowners. It was noted that in the natural environment easements, a separate non-profit is established to manage the transactions and land use, which is a process we would have to replicate or find an existing partner to handle that process.

There was a general discussion on the possibility of expanding the WCTF Board, especially if we get into additional grant programming and also to help advance our major programs or to better reach-out into the state and our advocacy efforts over-all.

Chair Reetz suggested that it may be worthwhile to continue this discussion with an interim meeting in the fall. Needles expressed the need to be in touch with the board on some of these issues, especially with the TRWCR meetings. Bovée reminded the board of our regularly scheduled meeting in February as part of the Governor's Arts Award celebration, which is now permanently scheduled for the 2nd Friday in February. There is also the TRWCR meeting coming up in July with another scheduled for August or September. Of course, we can also meet by conference call. As soon as we get more

information on the TRWCR meeting for August or September Bovee will send you that information and see if we can all get together then to discuss strategic planning for new programs and future funding requests for the increasing of the corpus, along with identifying possible partners. And if nothing else, we can always meet by conference call.

The meeting adjourned for a quick tour of the museum's new addition and for lunch at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Grant Application Review and Award

The Board agreed to take their preliminary rankings of the grants and to review the applications in reverse order (lowest ranking to highest ranking). Each application is to be reviewed and commented on by the Board. The Board may request comments from the grant reviewers: Basom, Britton and Jim Allison. Board comments will be noted and will be made available to constituents upon request and will be kept in the applicant file. The Board then commenced review of applications.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 14, 2008

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 a.m.

Grant application review continued.

After all grants were reviewed, the Board went back to look at a few of the grants to determine if they wished to modify the award level at this point. A general discussion was held on which grants individual members wished to look at, including Western Wyoming College Art Gallery, Laramie County Community College Foundation, Promoting Arts in Lander Schools, Dancers' Workshop, Ark Regional Services, and Nicolaysen Art Museum & Discovery Center. Apart from making cases for consideration, the board reviewed the current geographic distribution of the grant awards and evaluated the funding available. Changes were made to: Western Wyoming College Art Gallery to \$8,000; Laramie County Community College Foundation, \$10,000; and Ark Regional Services, \$5,000.

Upon review of the grant list and award levels, Empey moved and Needles seconded to approve awards totaling \$400,198 (as itemized in the attached grant award list). Motion approved unanimously.

Grants Process

Bovée recommended to the WCTF Board that we go with a once-a-year deadline with a May 1 deadline given the current levels of available funds. The Board approved by consensus.

Bovée reviewed the concerns raised by the Board in the review process. One concern was the handling of cash match. She noted that by our legislation we can allow in-kind match. She is willing to work on some language that remarks on the Board's preference to appropriate levels of cash match, which she will then send out to the Board for review and comment. She will also work on language to limit salaries and overhead as cash match, versus having dedicated dollars from their budgets to address the concern that while salaries are a legitimate cash expense, they may not be legitimate cash match to the project. Bovée will take into consideration the intent of the legislation is to allow equity between large and smaller organizations, which is why in-kind has been allowed. An additional concern was whether a historic preservation request be required to work through the State Historic Preservation Office. Since we don't require historic projects to be limited to buildings/sites on the National Register of Historic Places, there may or may not be a need to require that review of SHPO. Bovée and Needles will review the current language in the application and will draft any proposed changes for the Board's review and comment. All proposed changes will be provided to the Board via e-mail.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Other Business

Needles reviewed her to-do items, and she will be e-mailing the Board with the Powerpoints from the last TRWCR meeting and will provide you with any information prepared for the next TRWCR in July. Depending upon the TRWCR's response to information presented in July, she and Bovée will schedule a conference call with the Board. Additionally, Needles will keep the Board informed on the status of the Administrator position.

Schedule Next Meeting

Bovée will also keep the Board informed on the scheduling of the August/September TRWCR meeting. The Board was also reminded of the February 13, 2009 meeting in conjunction with the Arts Council's Governor's Arts Awards. We will once again put together a joint dinner the night prior with the board members of the State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission, the Arts Council, and the National Review Board for the National Register.

Shonsey moved and Smith seconded to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session at 11:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.