

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
Green River Room, Plains Hotel, Cheyenne
Friday, February 12, 2010

Board Members Present: David Reetz, Chair; Mike Shonsey; Barbara Smith; Sara Needles

Staff Present: Renée Bovée

Guests: Nancy Schiffer, Kaycee; Kate Holberg, Meeteetse Museums, Meeteetse; Riana Perez, Botanic Gardens Children's Village, Cheyenne; Sue Castaneda, Cultural Resources, Cheyenne; Mark Junge, Cultural Resources, Cheyenne; Rich Adams, State Archaeologist Office, Laramie; Todd Tibodeau, State Parks and Historic Sites, Cheyenne; Kathleen Urban, Cheyenne Arts Council; Brenda Lyttle, Cheyenne Arts Council; Ibbey Davis, Cheyenne Arts Council; Judy Schultz, Cheyenne Arts Council; Jennifer Lasik, South Lincoln Training and Events Center, Kemmerer; Rick Ewig, American Heritage Center, Laramie; Ben Goldman, American Heritage Center, Laramie; Jo Crandall, Wyoming Arts Alliance; Lisa O'Sullivan, Wyoming Arts Alliance; Linda Fabian, Wyoming State Historical Society, Wheatland; Pam Crochet, Cheyenne Depot Museum; Christie DePoorter, Cheyenne Depot Museum.

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Chair David Reetz.

Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

Appreciation of Service to Tom Empey:

Chair Reetz took a moment to express his and the board's appreciation for the years of fine service by Tom Empey, whose term will expire at the end of February. Mike Shonsey moved to give Empey an accolade for his work with the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund (WCTF). Seconded by Barbara Smith. Motion passed unanimously. A plaque acknowledging Empey's service will be sent to him.

Introduction of Guests:

Chair Reetz introduced the board and future board member Nancy Schiffer and asked the guests present to identify themselves. Introductions continued throughout the meeting as representatives from reporting grantees entered the room.

Approval of Minutes:

Shonsey moved and Smith seconded to approve the minutes for June 2009 and September 2009 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Update:

Sara Needles was not present at this time, due to other meetings occurring. A department update will be provided when she is present.

Budget:

Renée Bovée reviewed the revenues received to date with the board. She noted that the award level made last year was reduced to reflect the September conference call decision to rescind the Nicolaysen Art Museum grant. Additionally, small refunds have been made to the WCTF and those funds have been re-deposited. Despite the “ups and downs” of the economy and investments, it appears the investments will come in at an average of 4% for the year, thus we should easily have \$500,000 to \$525,000 available for grants in June, which will hold us on par with previous grant rounds.

Bovée also reminded the Board that the appropriations bill currently before the Legislature also includes a \$1.9 million increase to the corpus for the Cultural Trust Fund. The Governor had put into his budget a \$2 million increase to the corpus. When the Joint Appropriations Committee reviewed the budget they decided to reallocate \$100,000 from the WCTF corpus increase to support the Historic Architectural Assistance Fund (HAAF), which had not received support from the Governor in his budget. Chair Reetz noted that he had expressed his support of this re-allocation on behalf of the board, as the HAAF grants help the WCTF by providing funds to evaluate historic buildings and thus helps strengthen future WCTF grants by providing a deeper knowledge and understanding of the needs and options of these historic buildings. The Legislature will be reviewing the appropriations bill this next week. Bovée will keep the Board informed of the budget decisions as they are made.

Legislative Session Update:

Needles was not present at this time, due to other meetings occurring. Chair Reetz took this opportunity to express to the board how pleased he was by the presentations made by Needles and Milward Simpson to the Joint Appropriations Committee. He was present as a representative of the Wyoming Humanities Council, as part of the department’s exception requests includes one-time funding of \$250,000 to the Humanities Council in support of their programming around the state. He was pleased that the department’s exception requests have been received favorably by the Governor and the Legislature, and he is hopeful that despite the economic uncertainty the final appropriations to the department will be generous.

Grant Recipient Reports:

The following individuals presented brief reports on their projects/activities support by previous WCTF grants:

Kate Holberg, Meeteetse Museums

Kate Holberg presented a Powerpoint review of the restoration work which is and will be occurring on the historic Bank Building in Meeteetse. This building is situated in downtown Meeteetse and is one of the few historic structures still standing in town. The bank building will be restored to its use as the town bank at the turn of the 20th century, and will include exhibits featuring the commerce of the community. The work to be done on the building includes restoration of the floor (using reclaimed wood), removing the drop ceiling and restoring the plaster ceiling and walls, and refurbishing the bathroom to ADA requirements. Additionally, the front entrance to the building will be updated to include ramps and other accessibility options. (Prior restorations have included the bank teller cage and stabilization of the building including the addition of steel cross beams to support the upper floor and to “tie” the sides of the building back together.)

Riana Perez, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, Children's Village

Riana Perez presented a Powerpoint review of the creation of the Paul Smith's Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. This new village provides many educational opportunities for children and encourages their "play and discovery" in a safe environment. Apart from botanical experiences, the Children's Village includes an outdoor puppet theater space (where WCTF dollars were used). This puppet space was originally scheduled for use in the nicer summer months, but demand has made this and the Village overall a year-round opportunity for children. Puppet workshops are scheduled every Thursday and children are involved in creating puppets, writing scripts and performing. The Children's Village incorporates an indoor classroom so there is always a poor weather alternative space. The Children's Village utilized "sustainability" in its programs and activities, and the puppet theater itself utilized reclaimed stones from historic sites. Future activity includes construction of a "Sight Silo" which will incorporate telescopes for viewing the stars and planets, and a recently donated periscope.

Sue Castaneda and Mark Junge, Wyoming State Archives and Division of Cultural Resources, Cheyenne

Sue Castaneda and Mark Junge spoke on the oral history project they have been working on this last year. The project has sought to obtain the "living words" of previous Governor Jim Geringer, current Governor Dave Freudenthal and several other Wyoming dignitaries. Governor Freudenthal has requested that his interviews be postponed until he is out of office. At this point interviews have been completed with Governor Geringer (supported by the Wyoming Humanities Grant), Senator Cliff Hansen, Governor Mike Sullivan, Judge Nancy Guthrie, and Judy Uphoff, former director of the State Department of Corrections. Conversations were started with Thyra Thompson but that will most likely not be concluded given her poor health. Castaneda remarked on the challenge of capturing these voices while folks are still around. She and Junge work to establish the interviews with Junge conducting the interviews and Castaneda transcribing the histories for the State Archives. Additionally Castaneda makes edited podcasts of the interviews available through the Department website and other presentation opportunities as they are made available. Castaneda and Junge will be working on the next phase of capturing these voices by seeking the "movers" and "behind the scenes power wielders" who have had significant impact on Wyoming. Castaneda asked the assistance of the Board in identifying such "power brokers" and others whose history and voice should be captured before they are no longer with us.

Mike Shonsey and Kathleen Urban, Cheyenne Arts Council

Shonsey and Kathleen Urban reported on the efforts of the new Cheyenne Arts Council. Shonsey, who is board president of the Cheyenne Arts Council, acknowledged the other board members of the Cheyenne Arts Council, who were in attendance: Brenda Lyttle, Ibby Davis and Judy Schultz. The Cheyenne Arts Council was the product of the Mayor's Advisory Council on the Arts and has fulfilled a long desired dream in the community. As the Cheyenne Arts Council is still a very young organization, much of the efforts on their new part-time director, Kathleen Urban, has been focused on meeting with the other arts organizations in this town and determining how the Arts Council can be of best assistance. Urban has also had meetings with several long standing, but not incorporated, arts presenters and organizations, to determine the best role of the Arts Council and if serving as a fiscal agent is appropriate for their activities. The Cheyenne Arts Council's new website will be enhanced by a comprehensive arts calendar, to be created and implemented in the next year.

Rich Adams, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Laramie

Rich Adams presented a Powerpoint review of the fantastic discoveries made at the "High Rise Village" archaeological site in the Wind River Mountains. This site, at 10,500 to 10,900 feet in elevation, contains

dozens of prehistoric Native American lodges cut into the steep mountain side. Original dating of the site was between A.D. 1140 and A.D. 1535, but new carbon dating has taken the site to more than 4,000 years old, making this the oldest high elevation inhabited site in North America. The site is rich in the number of artifacts, with one lodge site containing over 7,000! The site includes many domestic items including pottery, bone awls, needles, in addition to the anticipated norm of projectile points, thus illustrating how White Bark Pine nuts were most likely harvested and preserved and used to supplement the diet during the winter months.

Todd Thibodeau, State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails, Cheyenne

Todd Thibodeau presented a Powerpoint review of the work done at Legend Rock and the creation of the new interpretive center. This project involved a large advisory committee (well over 30) who provided input on the history of the site and how best to present the site to visitors and are now working on the interpretive materials for the site. This advisory committee includes representatives from the Native American tribes, local officials, archaeologists and others. This site is located north of Hot Springs State Park (Thermopolis) on the road to Meeteetse. The public site is on state land, with adjacent sites on private land and BLM land. In order to reach the site, a visitor must cross private and BLM land. It was a cooperative effort by all to improve the site with a new access road, re-located parking area, new ADA accessible pathways, signage and electrical and water service for the visitor center and camp host site. Donations of equipment and manhours from the BLM and the County of Hot Springs provided a significant measure of support to the project, with water to the site now being supplied by a nearby oil company pad. It is anticipated that the interpretive work and visitor center will be completed within this year, with recruitment of a camp host anticipated by the summer of 2011.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:14 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

Chair Reetz welcomed Sara Needles to the meeting.

Grant recipient reports continued from:

Jennifer Lasik, South Lincoln County Conference and Events Center, Kemmerer

Jennifer Lasik presented a Powerpoint review of the new South Lincoln County Conference and Events Center. This new Center was built by the community with local bonds and opened up just last year. This state of the art center provides a gathering place for the community along with training and educational sessions for corporations in the area. A new series of community performances has been established (four concerts/events were scheduled this year, with seven in the works for next season) along with the Center providing a location for local exhibitions and family celebrations. Lasik noted that it is the intent of the Center to create an operational endowment of \$2.5 million in the next 3 to 5 years (the WCTF grant is to act as challenge funds for that endowment campaign). Lasik was pleased to report of strong interest expressed by local energy corporations in assisting with that campaign and the new employer-match donation program recently created by one of the corporations.

Chair Reetz paused the grant recipient reports to welcome Milward Simpson, Director, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. Simpson thanked the Cultural Trust Fund for their support to such organizations as the South Lincoln County Conference and Events Center. He went on to explain the status of the \$1.9 million addition to the WCTF corpus which is currently pending in the Legislative session...and his hopes for a successful session for the WCTF and the Department overall. Simpson encouraged everyone to enjoy the evening's Governor's Arts Awards and the reception at the Governor's Residence.

Grant recipient reports continued from:

Rick Ewig and Ben Goldman, U.W. American Heritage Center, Laramie

Rick Ewig and Ben Goldman reported on the progress of the Ludwig-Svenson Photographic Collection Digitization Project which received WCTF support. Goldman presented a Powerpoint review of the types of photographs in the collection, which documents the history of Laramie so well. Henning Svenson was a local portrait photographer who took photographs of Laramie illustrating new construction, business and manufacturing activities, and public events, thus providing a magnificent historical photographic reference of Laramie and the University of Wyoming's early days. To date, over 3,000 photographs have been digitized and made available through the University of Wyoming's website. The LUNA program (also used by the Wyoming State Archives and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office) is a fully searchable database, providing all available information from the Ludwig-Svenson Studio photographs (names, locations, dates, etc.). Additionally, photographs have been transferred from the highly unstable nitrate negative stock to a more stable film stock to aid in the collection's ongoing lifeline. To access the collection, visit <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu:8180/luna/servlet/ahc-ludwig~1~1>.

Jo Crandall and Lisa O'Sullivan, Wyoming Arts Alliance

Jo Crandall (board member) and Lisa O'Sullivan (new ¾ time Executive Director), provided a review of the WCTF supported recruitment project that occurred over the last two years. The Wyoming Arts Alliance, in recognizing a changing role from being a coordinator of performing arts block-booking activities to a more educational and advocate role, sought out representatives of arts organizations around the state through a statewide road tour by the then Executive Director Phyllis Colpits. This tour sought out to identify new contacts and to inform them of the resources available to them through the Arts Alliance, the Arts Council, Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), and the Cultural Trust Fund. The tour went all over the state, to approximately 40+ communities, and Colpits created a new e-mail database of over 750 contacts. This database will also be of assistance with advocacy issues as it can be tied into the WESTAF CAPWIZ, which is an advocacy tool which generates e-mails when crises issues arise and there is a need for quick dispersal of information and collates responses to state and national legislators. The Wyoming Arts Alliance will be taking this new contact information and outreach results into their next round of strategic planning, which should be completed within the next year.

Christie DePoorter and Pam Crochet, Cheyenne Depot Museum

Christie Depoorter and Pam Crochet provided a Powerpoint report on the activities of the Cheyenne Depot Museum's support of several cultural festivals, including the SEWIPA Native American Heritage Day (a WCTF grant recipient). The Cheyenne Depot Museum and downtown Plaza have played host to several cultural festivals, including the Black Cultural Heritage Celebration in February, the Hispanic Festival in June, the Celtic Musical Arts Festival in June, the 4th of July Celebration in July, the Heart of the West Festival in August, the Octoberfest in October, and the Native American Heritage Day Celebration which expanded to two days in November. The Native American Heritage Day began with a community celebration on Saturday, but during planning, it was decided to add a student day the Friday before. This student day provided the opportunity for over 250 elementary students to learn from native tradition bearers and was so successful that several school groups and teachers had to be turned away. The Saturday events brought in over 600 people from around the region to celebrate Native American traditions including flute playing, dance performances, storytelling, hand drum songs, a book reading and films, including the Northern Arapaho version of "Bambi" and the film "Dreamkeepers".

Public Comment:

No additional public members were present to make comment.

Schedule Next Meeting:

A discussion was held on the next face-to-face meeting of the Cultural Trust Fund Board, which is scheduled to occur in June for grant review. It was decided to hold the next meeting June 11-12, 2010 in Worland at the new Washakie Museum, if available. An alternative site at the Kemmerer South Lincoln Conference and Events Center is also a possibility. Bovée will follow up on meeting details and will get back to the Board with details.

Shonsey moved and Smith seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Approved unanimously.