

# County of El Dorado

## Historical Museum Commission



El Dorado County Historical Museum

Jeannette Barrett, Chairman  
Don Uelmen, Vice Chairman  
Keith Berry, Commissioner  
Pam Hupner, Commissioner  
Frank Jacobi, Commissioner  
Dee Owens, Commissioner  
Barbara Raines, Commissioner

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Mary Cory, Museum Administrator  
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### EL DORADO COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMISSION MINUTES JULY 15, 2022

- 1) The regular meeting of the Museum Commission was called to order by Chairman Jeannette Barrett at 9:35 AM as a combination Zoom and in-person meeting in Conference Room A of the Government Center. Present: Chairman Jeannette Barrett, Vice-Chairman Don Uelmen, Commissioner Barbara Raines, Commissioner Dee Owens, Commissioner Keith Berry, Commissioner Pam Hupner, Library Director Carolyn Brooks, and Museum Administrator Mary Cory. Frank Jacobi was absent.
- 2) Approve: Staff recommending the Historical Museum Commission, as a result of ongoing concerns related to COVID-19, to approve the following teleconference finding pursuant to Government Code subsection 54953(e)(3) in order to allow for the continued use of virtual committee meetings as authorized under Assembly Bill 361. Pursuant to Government Code subsections 54953(e)(3)(A) and (e)(3)(B)(ii), the committee has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency resulting from COVID-19 and the El Dorado County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing, as documented in the September 30, 2021 “Public Health Officer’s Recommendations for Safe Board and Commission Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic.” - Approved
- 3) Approve the minutes of March 4, 2022 - Approved
- 4) Report from Staff (see attached) – Mary reported on the Museum activities during the 2022 Fair held June 16-19; she reported on the current Museum operation hours and procedures; and she reported on her involvement in the research and planning for the Save the Graves event in October.
- 5) Collections Committee
  - a) Reba Trask’s collection of textiles and artifacts offered by her daughter, Reba Parker – after reviewing the photographs of the items offered and Reba Trask’s significance to the community as a local historian and El Dorado Rose, Dee made a motion to approve the collection and Don seconded. The motion was approved.
- 6) Discussion and Action Items - none
- 7) Museum Program Updates
  - a) El Dorado Western Railroad – Keith reported that the El Dorado Western Railroad is running on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month; the Shingle Springs Station has been leased to a restaurateur who will be offering fine desserts and sandwiches. They are working with the Foundation and Ed Cunha on the improvements; Keith has been working with volunteers to clean up around the historic crew buildings in Shingle Springs due to a complaint from a neighbor. However, the buildings needed the attention, and he plans to get a coat of paint on them in order to help preserve them. Keith reported that Niles Canyon offered the donation of 1940s 65-ton GE Locomotive in running condition, which the Foundation accepted. It will be delivered in the fall at no cost to the Foundation, and Mary is working with County Counsel on the process for county approval.
  - b) Research Room – Mary reported that research requests continue to come in by email, and she is assisting researchers by appointment at the front table after the initial research has been done.

- c) Exhibits and Tours – Mary reported that she is working on another virtual tour of the Museum; the Museum will have an exhibit in the Library lobby in August, October, and December.
- 8) Museum Commissioner Comments
  - a) Jeannette thanked Mary for being the glue that's keeping the Museum going.
- 9) Public Forum - none
- 10) Adjournment at 10:15; the next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2022 at 9:30 AM

Mary Cory, Museum Administrator

July 15, 2022

TO: Historical Museum Commission  
FROM: Mary Cory, Museum Administrator  
RE: **Report from Staff**

### The County Fair

The County Museum was open during the County Fair, Thursday – Sunday, June 16-19. Hours were 12Noon to 5PM, with over 3,000 visitors counted during that time. Uncle Fuzzy offered Gold Panning lessons on Friday – Sunday, the El Dorado Western Railroad booth was in the Fairgrounds Thursday – Sunday, and Scout Troop 117 had a booth in the Fairgrounds on Thursday. Tents were set up in the Museum Yard with 16 photo exhibit panels on display, along with brochures and handouts.

Volunteers were stationed inside the Museum, with visitors entering and exiting from the Fairgrounds. The Museum's front gate was kept locked per a long-standing agreement with the Fairgrounds. At least four volunteers were stationed in the Museum at all times to provide security, speak with visitors and share information about the exhibits. Research Request forms were available for anyone asking for research and those requests have since been completed and responded to. There were substantial store sales and money placed in the donation box.

To prepare for the Fair I asked members of Troop 117 to assist. A dozen troop members with two dads came on Monday, June 13 and cleaned up the yard, set up the pop-up tents and emptied the water out of the PG&E tub. Their workday ended with me giving them a tour of the Museum. Members of Troop 117 are interested in continuing to help the Museum with projects.

### Current hours and procedures

The County Museum exhibit area is now open Wednesday – Sunday, 12PM – 4PM. The gates are open, and visitors are welcome to take a tour or tour on their own; reservations for tours are still available.

The Research Table is set up in the exhibit hall for anyone with a reservation to look at maps, photographs, or other research materials brought to them by staff. Drop-in researchers are asked to fill out the Research Request Form, and their research will be handled by designated Research Room volunteers.

I am recruiting new volunteers to be docents with the goal of having one docent volunteer for each day the Museum is open. Currently, on those days without a scheduled docent, I am giving tours.

### Save the Graves research and event

I am serving on the Buried History Committee, which is planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Save the Graves event in the Placerville Union Cemetery on October 15. This event includes portrayals of people buried in the cemetery presented by actors following scripts based on accurate research. Descendants of the people portrayed are included in the presentations. This event is a fund-raiser for Placerville Union Cemetery projects not funded by the county. This year the theme is "Merchants of Main Street." With the help of Research Room volunteer, Cynthia Miles, we have pulled together the information and photographs of eight people: Joe Rupley, Dorothea Zeisz, William H. Combellack, Gertrude Kirk, H.S. Morey, Maggie Akins O'Keefe, Henry N. Tracy, and Frances Fairchild.