

Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) Activities

FY2007 (July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007)

AHAC began the year at their July 18, 2006 meeting with the election of officers:

James Garrison, Chair

Ann Woosley, Vice Chair

GladysAnn Wells, Secretary

Catherine May, Treasurer

Committee Chairs were also designated:

Don Ryden, Historic Sites Review Committee

Melodee Jackson, Countdown to the Centennial Committee

John Driggs, Development Committee

Beth Vershure, Marketing Committee

Julie Yoder, Programs, Projects and Events Committee

Noel Stowe, Membership Committee

Other members at the beginning of the year included:

Shelly Cohn

Betsy Stunz-Hall

Hartman Lomawaima

Ken Travous

The Commission also reviewed legislative changes that went into effect September 21, 2006, as presented to us by Mike Braun, Executive Director of the Legislative Council. These changes dealt with: 1. The Reimbursement of travel expenses of Commission members other than state employees; 2. The Commission's ability to directly fund activities and projects; and 3. The Commission's ability and responsibility to accept and spend Centennial designated funds. The legislature also set aside \$2.5 million for the Centennial with a requirement that the funds be matched by \$5 million of non-state money.

At the August 29, 2006 meeting the Commission approved a "Draft Centennial Plan" and distributed it for public comment.

In September Robert Booker, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts replaced Shelly Cohn on the Commission and in October Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director of Arizona State Parks became the designee of Ken Travous to the Commission.

In October the Commission made minor revisions to the "Centennial Plan" and released it for further public comment.

In December the Commission voted to formally release the “Centennial Plan” and officially announce the “Centennial Kickoff” on February 14, 2007, Statehood Day.

In January, 2007 Ann Dutton Ewbank, representing the Arizona Library Association replaced Betsy Stunz-Hall on the Commission. New appointees to the Commission included, Paul Alvin, Steve Tully, Ken Bennett and Steve Rizley.

The “Centennial Plan” was officially approved at the January 30, 2007 Commission meeting. The “Centennial Plan” was publicly announced and released on Statehood day, February 14, 2007 by Library and Archives Board Chair, President Tim Bee, Vice Chair, Jim Weiers and Representative Jack Brown, member. The noon ceremony in the historic Senate Chamber of the historic Capitol was also attended by Governor Janet Napolitano and Chief Justice Ruth McGregor. Chair James Garrison and Secretary GladysAnn Wells appeared on the channel 8 Horizon program promoting the “Centennial Plan” and Legacy Projects.

In March Jean Calhoun joined the Commission. And on March 2, 2007 members of the Commission presented information on Centennial Legacy Projects at the annual “Arizona Convocation” a workshop sponsored the Library Development Division of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

At the March 22, 2007 meeting of the Commission Steve Gervais, Wellington Reiter, and Darren Petrucci presented an update on the Capitol Mall Redevelopment Plan. The Commission also approved three official legacy projects: 1. The Arizona State Railroad Museum Project in Williams; 2. The Arizona Women’s Heritage Trail Project; and 3. Brigham City Historic Site Restoration Project in Winslow.

On April 19, 2007 the Commission, the Arizona National Guard and the Arizona Legislative Leadership, Speaker Weiers and President Bee, hosted a presentation and boxed lunch for mayors, county supervisors and other officials to learn about the “Centennial Plan” and how to get involved in legacy projects and fund raising.

On May 24, 2007 the Commission met on the campus of Arizona State University in conjunction with the Coordinating Committee for History in Arizona’, annual “Centennial Workshop.” The Commission discussed recent legislation that expanded the membership of the Commission and made the Directors of the Tourism and Education Departments as statutory members. The Commission also pursued a budget for the \$50,000 operational fund set up by the legislature. Follow-up letters were also sent to the cities, towns and counties encouraging them to set up Centennial Committees and designate legacy projects. The treasurer and secretary coordinated with the State Treasurer’s Office in setting up the Official Centennial Fund account.

This is a summary of the activities of the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission. The complete minutes of the Commission’s meetings can be found at azcentennial.gov.