

Austin Genealogical Society Board Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

Present: Nan Kilkeary, Rob Richardson, Karen Liston, Elizabeth Price, Diane Harvey Anderson, Beverly Pritchett, and Pat Murphree

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:12 pm.

March Financial Statement, Strategic Planning and Online Board Meetings Minutes were approved through consent approval.

President's Discussion –

COVID-19: The future of in-person activities is unknown at this point. And, everything that you need to know about genealogy is available online. AGS needs to move more into the virtual world. Currently AGS is incredibly dependent on only a few people to communicate with membership via email (Mailchimp) and post/update the website. The following discussion occurred.

- 1) How do we connect with other people/societies across the country to find out what they have to offer and let them know what we have to offer?
- 2) We need to offer online videos – either new content or links to good presentations already posted elsewhere.
- 3) Do we become more virtual and only host quarterly in-person meetings?
- 4) Some original content could be offered for a very small fee to help cover the cost of developing the presentation.
- 5) Could Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings be recorded and posted online?
- 6) Third Saturdays could transition to members only one-on-one or group virtual assistance.

The Board needs to develop a plan for rapid transition to a more virtual environment.

Programs: Based on the discussion noted above the Board voted to suspend in-person meetings until further notice.

Seminar: Because of the inability to predict when social distancing measures will end, the Board voted to cancel the seminar for 2020.

Membership: In order to maximize attendance at future events, whenever COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, AGS needs to develop a media listing with contacts that respond.

Nan will send out an email to those previous members that have not paid their dues that they are due.

Website: The final version of the new website should be available to us by the end of the month of April. Until then, Rob and Diane are posting items to the current website.

Diane created a new tab accessible from the home page titled “What’s Happening”. This tab contains the information from the emails that Nan sends out. This helps to memorialize the information and offers another place for people to obtain the information.

Email Communication: Mailchimp is the marketing platform that AGS uses to send emails to membership. Currently only a couple people have access to it, or know how to send emails. Nan will provide all Board members with access to Mailchimp so that this does not become a single point of failure for communication with membership.

New Business:

AGS Quarterly: Another major decision to make by the end of 2020 is whether or not to continue the Quarterly publication. The current editor will be resigning effective the end of the year. The Board needs to decide if we should continue on current path or go a new direction with the quarterly.

Anniversary Planning: April 2020 is the 80th anniversary of the founding of AGS. A celebration will be held in the Fall of this year.

Board Meetings: Future Board meetings will be held via Zoom. This is helpful to reduce travel requirements for those that live significantly outside the city limits.

Meeting close: The meeting closed at 4:30 PM.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2020 at 6:30 PM.