



Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission

February 2020 Meeting Minutes

Time: Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 1-3 pm

Location: Metcalf Archeological Consultants, 11495 W 8th Ave #104, Lakewood, CO 80215

Call-in Option: 1-712-432-0220 (passcode 7579786#)

In attendance: Heidi Plankow, Traci Stoffel, Andy Hill, Ilana Moir, Jill Corbin, Kathleen Bracke, Cheryl Glanz, Nathan Boyless, Tony Gurzick, Rebecca White, Lenore Bates, Christine Costello

Approve October 2019 Meeting Minutes

Amanda Barker asked Commission Members to review and offer any amendments to the October minutes. The motion was moved by Nathan, second by Rebecca, all in favor, none opposed, and abstention by the three new commissioners not present at the previous meeting (Tony, Christi, and Kathleen).

Welcome and New Appointments

Amanda Barker welcomed Tony Gurzick, Christi Costello, and Kathleen Bracke as new Commissioners and asked them to introduce themselves to the group. Chisti particularly notes Colorado Creative Industries' new [Colorado Creative Corridor](#) resource for the byways program.

Round-Robin Update on Byways

- Santa Fe Trail - having meetings for Canyons and Plains heritage program and is moving the Santa Fe byway under that nonprofit group.
- Guanella and Mt Evans - Daniel talked to them about a potential nomination for the National Byways Program. They are looking for talking points for the benefits of national designation and attracting more visitors/economic development. If they become a national byway, they will have more promotion, more conservation, and it may be a tipping point above another regional byway without the designation for travelers.
- Cache la Poudre - Cheryl shared the eastern terminus to the byway to have the official launch to annex this into the City of Fort Collins. The annexation allows getting gateway improvements and beautification opportunities.
- Highway of Legends - Heidi talked with Deb Malone. They are also talking about a national nomination application and want to talk through wording and impact statements. They completed an updated Corridor Management Plan (CMP).
- Alpine Loop - Heidi had a call with Kristin in Lake City and someone in Silverton.
- San Juan Skyway has held two organizational meetings to restart that committee. They also had a presentation from the San Miguel Power Association that's going to do some significant power source work. The power lines keep going out intermittently between

Ouray and Silverton that could have an impact on the byway. They received visual impact guidelines from Lenore.

- Trail of the Ancients - they are actively recruiting for their committee. Heidi spent time with Susan down in Cortez.
- West Elk Loop - attended a meeting in Redstone. They are looking at a collaborative project on better parking/services at a parking area at Penny Hot Springs. They are looking to develop more signage.
- Frontier Pathways - applied for a CTO craft workshop - scheduled for March 5, also completed an update to their CMP.
- Gold Belt - applied for a Craft Mentor via Heidi to gather more information.
- Several commissioners were never assigned a direct byway to be a point of contact. Amanda will set up a way to match commissioners with byways and assign them out so that each of the 26 byways has a point of contact beyond Lenore as Program Manager.

Colorado Byways Symposium Update

Please note that this update was given before Colorado's stay at home orders. The Byways Symposium has been delayed and is not occurring in May 2020.

Lenore Bates and Heidi Plankow gave an update about registration. The planning committee is Lenore, Heidi, and Kelli Helpler. The symposium will be May 6-8. Registration is limited to 150 people with a good idea that it will sell out.

Speakers will include Mark Falzone from Scenic America, two local speakers from Ouray, Rosemary (former poet laureate with poetry on the topic of the San Juan Mountains, lives at the intersection of two byways). Also, Karen Riche, "No Individual Heroes" about the mountain rescue team along the Million Dollar Highway and Alpine Loop

Tracks at the symposium will include promotion and partnership—the Welcoming Remarks from Shosanna and Mayor of Ouray, Awards Dinner. There will be a special session on the Colorado Hot Springs Loop, connecting byways to hot springs. The pre-tour bus has an overnight in Cortez and will return in time for registration. The Friday tour post-tours will take attendees over the West Elk Loop (stop at Redstone Castle), and Grand Mesa, will have rally points to caravan with a group.

The Commission meeting 9 am-12 pm in Ouray on May 6 (this is now online). Please sponsor if you haven't already. Coordination with the Governor's office should be explored, especially as we could prepare a new executive order for the Byways Commission. Make sure to have handouts to share and promote at the symposium (plus give to the Governor)

2019 Annual Report & new 2020 Survey

Lenore Bates gave a brief report on the [2019 survey and the collected responses \(online here\)](#). Heidi, Cheryl, and Lenore did a big push at the end of the year to get more responses. 20 or 21 individual byways have a board, most of them do not have job descriptions for board members.

Lenore will be looking back on the 2017-2019 surveys for additional information and comparison. She will prepare a Program Activities report. The 2020 survey about 2019 byways activities is now underway.

National Scenic Byways Nominations Process

Lenore Bates went over the structure of the nominations and the resources the FHWA provided to complete a successful national nomination. Lenore will alert the commissioners to critical dates. One of the primary focuses of the May commission meeting will be to review and provide feedback on nominations drafted and submitted to the state (in advance of sending to the Federal level). We are expecting nomination applications from these byways:

- Highway of Legends
- Mt Evans
- Guanella Pass
- Silver Thread
- Los Cominos
- Trail of the Ancients (extension)

National Scenic Byway Foundation Awards Update

Lenore Bates has reached out to the byways contacts about submitting award nominations by February 28. The Highway of Legends hopes to get recognition/an award for their TravelStorys app, the Trail of the Ancients for the completion of the McElmo Flume Overlook. There will be an awards ceremony. Lenore encourages everyone to sign up for the NSBF email lists for relevant information and webinar opportunities. Do so at the bottom of this webpage: nsbfoundation.com

Partners in the Outdoors Byways Meeting

Please note that this update was given before the COVID-19 outbreak and Colorado's stay at home orders. PITO in person was canceled. Some virtual experiences will take place now. More info here: <https://cpw.state.co.us/partnersconference>

Lenore Bates gave an update on planning for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Partners in the Outdoors Conference and the Byways Meeting taking place one of the mornings. Kat from Ouray has three rural advisors working with OEDIT to talk about how her position is working with rural communities. She will present at the event and will have some stuff put together. Christy will ask Samantha as Deputy Director for Outdoor Rec to speak at the byways meeting.

Program Updates and Discussion

CTO Byways Microsites

Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) secured a \$200,000 grant through History Colorado's State Historical Fund grant process to develop 26 microsites for the Byways Program under the colorado.com website. They have gathered feedback to byways commissioners and byways contacts to ensure accuracy and tone. All 26 videos have gone to SHF for approval. The launch date is unclear because of SHF's response.

Jill Corbin requests from the Commission to spread the word as they get to the end of the grant cycle, and has to make a stop for feedback. SHF has to approve all content during the grant timeline. In late summer or early fall, SHF's involvement with the project is complete, and CTO can fully manipulate and change the content. There will be a 2.0 version of the site in FY2021 tied to the CTO budget.

National Travel and Tourism Week is the beginning of May. Tourism offices for each state reveal strategies for each state. The hope is to engage the regional groups to promote and use the site during that week and prepare for Memorial Day Weekend.

Electric Byways

The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) is working to define and identify electric byways around the state and tie to a grant to install charging stations. By June and July, we hope to have five byways to be able to be deemed "electric." Nine are "very close and ready to go," but we have to see how the EV charging stations shake out.

Federal Lands on Planning

Lenore has participated in planning conversations on byways, stating our byway needs and how our program feeds into Federal planning.

2020 Meetings

- August 6, 9:30-12:00
- November 5, 9:30-12:00
- Annual byways meeting at CDOT in September

2020 elections: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

Amanda Barker, at the time of this meeting, was the Byways Chair. Because of Sheila Sears' recent retirement, she also was in the role of Secretary. She has asked Nathan Boyless to step in as Chair and to move back into the Secretary position. She does not have a specific nomination for the Vice-Chair position.

Daniel Cressey nominates Nathan as Chair and Amanda as Secretary with the Vice-Chair to be determined at the following May 6 meeting. Christy and Cheryl seconded this. All in favor, none opposed. The recommendation from the Commission is to have further conversations with a few commissioners in the interim and nominate the Vice-Chair at the May 6 Commission meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3:06 pm.

Commission:

Amanda Barker, Member at Large

Nathan Boyless, History Colorado^[L]_[SEP]

Jill Corbin, Colorado Tourism Office^[L]_[SEP]

Kathleen Bracke, Transportation Commission

Christine Costello, Colorado Creative Industries

Daniel Cressy, USDA Forest Service

Cheryl Glanz, Eastern Byways

Rep. Barbara McLachlan, State Legislature

Ilana Moir, Conservation/Open Space Rep

Heidi Pankow, Western Byways

Jack Placchi, BLM Representative

EX-OFFICIO Members (designated through Dept. Executive Directors)^[L]_[SEP]

*Tony Gurzick, representing the Department of Natural Resources

*Andy Hill, representing the Department of Local Affairs

*Cynthia Nieb, representing History Colorado

*Rebecca White, representing the Department of Transportation

Colorado Dept. of Transportation^[L]_[SEP]

Lenore Bates, Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program Manager

Program Vision:

Guiding travelers to experience and be inspired by treasured places that comprise Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways. (Commission Approved 5/14/13)

Program Definition:

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program is a statewide partnership intended to provide recreational, educational, and economic benefits to Coloradans and visitors by designating, interpreting, protecting, and promoting a system of outstanding touring routes in Colorado.

Commission Mission:

The Commission is a partnership to evaluate and designate the state's Scenic and Historic Byways and to develop and recommend funding sources and provide administrative support to sustain the byways for future generations. (Commission Approved 12/7/12)

Commission Bylaws:

<https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/bywayscommission>

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