



Park County Historical Society elects new officers

Officers look to future to preserve Park County past

By Douglas Stephens, Correspondent

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New officers of the Park County Historical Society pose after their election on May 3. From left to right are Secretary Jim Sapp, Vice President Karen Christenson, Director Linda Wood, Treasurer Bill Kulenburg, and President Dee Brown. They join the existing directors (not pictured): Craig Christenson, Roger Christenson (no relation) and Barbara Jerome Behl, who is also president of the Shawnee Branch of the Historical Society. The officers expressed optimism at the meeting regarding the future of the Historical Society. (Photo by Douglas Stephens/The Flume)

Forty-one people attended the Park County Historical Society election

meeting on May 3, and unopposed candidate Dee Brown was elected president, Karen Christenson beat Leona Nelson to be elected vice president, Jim Sapp beat Art Hall for the position of secretary after John Rankin withdrew and threw his support behind Sapp, and Bill Kulenburg beat incumbent treasurer Todd Alcock for treasurer.

In addition, the one open director position was won by acclamation by Linda Wood. Other directors who were not up for election are Roger Christenson and Craig Christenson (no relation). Shawnee Branch President Barbara Jerome Behl is also a society director. Members of the society had to be current with membership dues to vote on the candidates. The four officers have votes on the board, as do the directors.

President

After the meeting, Brown, a Bailey resident, told The Flume: "I am very honored the society elected me as president. My first priority is to the history and buildings in the (McGraw Memorial) Park."

Outgoing president Arthur Hall talked about the past and future after the meeting. "The best thing we (the society)

accomplished was the return of society events. Things left to do are working on restoring the caboose and the Glen Isle Resort wait station.” Both are in McGraw Memorial Park. Hall made no mention of the Great Outdoors Colorado Grant Project that updated McGraw Memorial Park and built two miles of trail on the society’s Morrow Mountain or of the issues surrounding his presidency in 2012. (See the October 12, 2012, Flume.)

Vice president

Candidates Karen Christenson and Leona Nelson vied for the position of vice president. Christenson, in her campaign speech, told attendees: “I joined the PCHS in 2011 and was nominated to take over membership chair soon after. In that time, membership increased from 70 to roughly 160 members. In the last two years, Dee (Brown) and I have put on fundraising events. These events have been quite successful and raised money for the society.”

Leona Nelson highlighted her lifetime membership in the historical society and her fundraising efforts for a new flagpole in McGraw Memorial Park and a new window for the PCHS annex building. Nelson’s fundraising at Burro Days and her work as cashier for fundraising events were also highlighted.

Christen had 26 votes, and Nelson had 11.

Secretary

Although the candidates for secretary were initially Hall, Sapp and Rankin, Rankin withdrew and spoke for Sapp. “I withdraw my candidacy for secretary of the Historical Society,” he said. “If anyone was intending to vote for me, I encourage you to vote for Jim Sapp. Jim is involved and active in history in Park

County. He has been involved in the historical society as a member, and as webmaster for the society’s web site. He is on the board of the Park County Local History Archives. In PCHS meetings he has shown himself to be intelligent and articulate. For the last three years, the historical society has been primarily concerned with construction and maintenance. Jim will help the historical society get back to its stated purpose of preserving history and making it accessible to the public. Please vote for Jim Sapp.”

Sapp thanked Rankin for the kind words and added that he was familiar with secretarial duties because of his last four years as secretary of his homeowners association.

“I would be honored to be secretary of this organization. I know how to be secretary; I know how to do that. But I think it’s important to remember that you’re electing more than a secretary; you’re electing a board member and that is my most important function.”

Hall talked of his past experience.

“I have more than 12 years experience as secretary with the Platte Canyon Area Chamber of Commerce and Republican central committee. What I would like to do would be to get back on track developing the area’s history. We (the society) have spent more than the last three years on administration problems, building and maintenance. Now I want to move forward and network with other historical societies, Colorado Preservation Inc. and Colorado History. Many of those organizations already know me. I have skills in record keeping and correspondence. I want us to grow.”

Sapp had 27 votes, and Hall had 10.

Treasurer

Incumbent Treasurer Todd Alcock vied with Bill Kulenburg for the treasurer position.

Alcock talked about his past work for the society. "What I have been doing for the past year is trying to get us up to speed with state and federal laws," he said.

"This has been accomplished in a minor way by filing state income tax forms for the first time. Complying with the law is the right thing to do."

Alcock also highlighted his work moving the accounting to QuickBooks and recording and producing DVD(s) of fundraising events.

Kulenburg spoke next. "I have lived in Park County since 2006. My wife and I bought a house here and turned it into the Lynwood Park Bed and Breakfast," he said. Kulenburg highlighted his 26-year career with Qwest Communications, retiring in 2006, in roles including engineering and legal departments. Kulenburg has worked preparing taxes since 1998.

He contrasted the "newness" of Park County compared with European history.

"Even though we are young, preserving our past has value if for no other reason than to show us where we have been and where we want to go. I believe we have a duty to develop the history of the area to show people, so maybe they will stop here and help Park County grow," he said.

Kulenburg got 23 votes, and Alcock got 15.