



19 January, 2023

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report 2 and final for 2022

The Castle Rock Museum visitorship returned to pre-pandemic levels this year. Many of our visitors came to Castle Rock to visit family after limits due to the pandemic. We had visitors from 45 states (a record) and six countries. New residents come to learn about the history of the community. The Castle Rock Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary in August. We are grateful for the town support that has made it possible. The featured exhibit for the 2022-2023 season is the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp that was in Castle Rock during the 1930s depression. The exhibit shares the history of the area where a new trail is being built on the old Camp site. A new exhibit will be coming in summer. The museum operates four days per week, five hours per day as stated in the contract. However, the museum does serve additional groups such as school visits, scouts and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. We noted an increase in school participation. Groups such as the Thunderbird car club came for a get together and lunch. The museum staff is continually engaged in curating and preserving museum artifacts related to the history of Castle Rock. The artifacts are principally acquired through donations. (This meets our objectives 1 and 2.)

For May Historic Preservation Month the museum conducted its second Scavenge the Rock downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program was a collaboration with the Town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board and the Downtown Merchants Association. The aim of the hunt is to expose a little Castle Rock history and introduce residents to local downtown business. Participation has grown so we will conduct this event again in 2023. (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

We continue the summer downtown historic walking tours and the annual Trolley Tour. This year the trolley tour featured the Craig and Gould neighborhood. The museum and society are expanding their use of social media to supplement the in person activities. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5,6 and 7.)

The Society and Museum were able to hold two fundraising events this year. We resumed both our annual Tea in May and our BBQ fundraiser in October.

The museum will continue to participate in other community events like Festival of Trees, Car show, Fangtastic and the county fair where the museum can make a contribution. The museum staff also participates in history activities in other communities when appropriate. (This meets our objectives 6 and 8.)

We also enjoy the services of talented volunteers who work as docents, provide programs and exhibits, and do restoration repairs at the museum. Our IT department is principally volunteer. Society members sponsor many of our fundraising events.

Operating expenses for the museum for the year were \$91,000. Funds are principally used for salaries, utilities, maintenance and exhibits. Other funds which support the museum come from donations, fundraising events, gift shop sales, recycling and donated services.

Angie DeLeo, Director, Castle Rock Museum