



9 January, 2021

Castle Rock Historical Society and Museum Report, 02-2020

The Castle Rock Museum had a great start to the year, but closed in March and reopened on 27 May. The staff operated from home as feasible during the closure and performed research for this year's major exhibit on the Castle Rock Santa Fe depot. The museum normally 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 and civic programs at hours beyond the usual operating hours. We expect these to be curtailed for the near future. 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 objective 1 and 2.)

In July the museum opened its major exhibit for this year, "The other depot: The Santa Fe, ATSF". The Santa Fe Railroad came to Castle Rock in the 1880s and built a depot on the west side of Plum Creek. The first depot and second depot both burned down. The existing depot is the third built for Castle Rock in 1911. The town also contributed to a bridge over Plum Creek to bring passengers into the business district from the west side of Plum Creek. Our first exhibit of the year was an art exhibit of paintings by local watercolor artist Cindy Welch. The exhibit features many of her paintings and prints of local historic buildings and sites. The museum has the painting that Cindy did of the museum. The exhibit was extended to the end of June because of the museum closure. We made a film of the exhibit and posted it on our website and social media to reach those that could not come to the museum. We plan to continue these new services. The museum is now the site of an annual public art piece. A new sculpture was installed in July. (This meets our objectives 3 and 4)

We have conducted an historic trolley tour each May for the last ten years. This year's tour was put off until 2021 pending the situation at that time. Our plan is for a tour of the Craig and Gould neighborhood. We were able to conduct our summer walking tour of downtown Castle Rock by doing more tours in smaller groups. Both tours are popular with new residents and also bring visitors from outside of Castle Rock. Since outdoor tours were popular we did seven tours entitled "Ghostly and Tragic Tales of Castle Rock" in October. We also held our annual historic tour of Cedar Hill cemetery. During the holiday season we added some walking tours of the Craig and Gould neighborhood, weather permitting. The museum and society are using social media to supplement the in person activities. (These programs are designed to meet our objectives 5,6 and 7.)

We posted eight outside interpretive signs to illustrate features of our site and surrounding areas. We wanted our site to be informative and educational even if we are required to close. The museum will continue to participate in other community events like Festival of Trees and public art and the Car Show.

Museum visitors are slowly returning to the museum. Some teachers arranged for their students to visit the museum with family over their fall break.(This meets our objective 6 and 8.)

We also enjoy the services of talented volunteers who work as docents, provide 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 \$78,680. 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