

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission Meeting

Friday, March 11, 2022

History Nebraska
1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dr. Don R. Gerlach Capitol View Room and Zoom

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST

Minutes

Chairman Hull began the meeting at 10:06 a.m. by introducing Jim McKee, the newly appointed representative to the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, replacing Ron Naugle. Chairperson Hull also stated that a notice to the press had been given and that compliance with the Open Meetings Act has been satisfied.

Roll Call

Present: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Not Present: None

Assistant to Commission: Anne Dorsheimer

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes for February 23, 2021 by Tim Heller

Seconded by Sara Crook

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Not Present: None

Motion Approved.

Motion to approve the Minutes for January 28, 2022 by Tim Heller

Seconded by Aaron Wyatt

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Abstain: Trevor Jones

Not Present: None

Motion Approved.

The nomination for David Kaufmann:

This nomination tabled pending further clarification. Trevor stated that it is the Commission's prerogative to decide whether the nomination is complete or not complete.

Motion by Tim Heller to disregard David Kaufmann's nomination as incomplete.

Seconded by Trevor Jones

Discussion: Sara Crook noted she preferred to err on the side of accepting nominations. Jim McKee inquired if the nominator for David Kauffmann had been notified regarding the application. Tim Heller noted that no required questions were completed and the nomination consisted only of an attached article.

Anne clarified that she communicated with the nominator twice regarding the completion of the application and provided a Zoom link in order for the nominator to answer questions and he declined.

Chairperson Hull felt that we could not pursue the application without the completed questions in the application. He clarified part of the process is receiving a well-informed case on whether this person is worthy of consideration and it did not meet that level.

Chairperson Hull asked to call the question. Tim Heller called the question:

Tim restated the motion: To disregard David Kaufmann's nomination as incomplete

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Abstain: Jim McKee

Not Present: None

Motion adopted.

Build on the voting process:

Trevor noted that the statute lays out the procedures over a 5-year period and it requires the Commission to hold hearings in every congressional district (3), and the Commission listens to the Nominators' accounts and then traditionally, the Commission has one selection meeting. However, a single selection meeting is not specified by statute. Instead of having one final meeting at the State Capitol, Trevor proposed to have another meeting where the Commission narrows the finalists down to three, and then makes the selection at another meeting. This would allow the Commission to increase interest in the process. Trevor argued this approach could result in more recognition for the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

Discussion ensued over the logistics of such a change. The Commission discussed adding an additional meeting after the three district hearings to narrow the field down to three. After three finalists are identified, the Commission will send out a press release. At a meeting approximately a month after that, the Commission will hold a meeting to select a finalist. The Commission discussed how the ballot for the three finalists will be implemented, but made no final decision.

Chairperson Hull asked for a motion to approve this idea.

Motion by Tim Heller to approve two meetings after the congressional district hearings to narrow down to three finalists and then one final selection.

Seconded by Sara Crook.

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Not Present: None

Motion adopted.

Transportation for the Commission to the three congressional districts:
The Commission determined that transportation was only needed for the District 3 hearing on July 25, 2022. The Commission will meet in Lincoln and History Nebraska will provide transportation to Holdrege and back to Lincoln on that day.

Motion by Tim Heller approval of the three congressional district sites in Omaha, Lincoln, and Holdrege
Seconded by Jim McKee
Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt
No: None
Not Present: None
Motion adopted.

Chairperson Hull inquired upon a motion to have the Friday, August 12, 2022 meeting to select the top three finalists. Discussion ensued regarding a date for the September meeting to make the final selection.

Motion by Aaron Wyatt to make the final selection on Monday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m.
Second by Tim Heller
Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt
No: None
Not Present: None
Motion adopted.

For discussion of initial March Meeting for Nominees, Chairperson Hull mentioned that we are able to have an additional meeting in March 2022 at History Nebraska, 1500 R Street, with the invitation of nominators to come and make a case in Lincoln; and the Commission has done so in the past.

Sara Crook noted as a non-Lincoln representative, that each congressional district has one hearing to keep it fair and in the spirit of all people in Nebraska. To do otherwise, favors one district, and she opposed that. Trevor concurred.

Motion by Sara Crook to not hold an additional meeting in Lincoln.
Seconded by Tim Heller
Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt
No: None
Not Present: None
Motion adopted.

Further Business:

The Commission received a letter from Stephen Kay who nominated Reverend Hiro Kano and his nomination eligibility concerning date of death. The Commission decided at the last meeting on January 28, 2022 that since Father Kano had died in 1988 and that he had not died 35 years after the start, that he is not eligible.

Mr. Kay's letter indicated that when the person is actually named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame, then Father Kano would be eligible, because October 24, 2023 would be 35 years since his death. If the Commission named him in the 5th year from that statute, then he would meet that eligibility.

Trevor referenced the statute 72-728: if a finalist is selected for induction, the Commission shall name him or her to the Nebraska Hall of Fame during the final year of each 5-year period. No individual shall be named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame until at least 35 years after such person's demise.

The Commission discussed the meaning of the term "named" in the statute. After discussion, the Commission determined it needed outside expertise to determine the answer to Mr. Kay's question. Commissioner's suggested that Trevor Jones contact the Attorney General's office to get their input and then report back.

Motion by Tim Heller to reconsider Mr. Kano's nomination pending view by the Attorney General.

Seconded by Jim McKee

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Not Present: None

Motion adopted.

Motion to adjourn by Tim Heller

Seconded by Jim McKee

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Not Present: None

Motion adopted.

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission adjourns at 10:57 a.m. CST.

DRAFT