



History Nebraska Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, April 8, 2022

Antelope County Museum

410 L St.

Neligh, NE 68756

9:00 a.m. – 12:44 p.m. CST

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME AND REMARKS

David Levy, President of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He referenced the legal noticed published on April 3, 2022 and that the meeting is publicized by state statute and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

David noted that the mission of History Nebraska is to “open to all the histories we share.” He welcomed guests in the public attending in person, including Joe Hartz, Mayor of Neligh, Boyd Pederson, Board Chairman, Ron Westlake, Executive Director of Antelope County Museum, Sheryl Schmeckpeper, journalist at Norfolk Daily News, and Harv Ofe, Supervisor of Neligh Mill at History Nebraska. He welcomed Leslie Fattig, Executive Director, and Gail Potter, President, from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, as well as members of the public joining via Zoom. David introduced new board members Dave Lopez attending in person, and Patricia Wagner attending via Zoom.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

President Levy inquired if there were public questions or comments regarding items on the Agenda. A member of the public attending via Zoom, Frank Strassler, stated his objections to demolishing the grain elevators at the Neligh Mill.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 14, 2022

4.1 Motion to approve the Minutes from January 14, 2022

Motion by Marilyn Moore, Second by Mark Goodman

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

No: None

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

5. HISTORY NEBRASKA FOUNDATION REPORT (TYLER VACHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

Tyler Vacha presented on the work of the History Nebraska Foundation on the last quarter.

5.1 Motion to appoint Jamesena Moore and Tom Kraus to serve as board members of the History Nebraska Foundation

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Galen Hadley

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Abstain: Tom Kraus

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

6. NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION REPORT (LESLIE FATTIG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

Leslie Fattig presented a list of funded grants from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. Treasurer Jamesena Moore asked if the Board would receive a full financial report and was told one would be sent soon.

7. COMMITTEE REPORT – FINANCE (JAMESENA MOORE – TREASURER)

Jamesena Moore presented the Treasurer's report for History Nebraska.

8. COMMITTEE REPORT – GOVERNANCE (DAVID LEVY, CHAIR)

David Levy presented on the work of the Governance Committee on the last quarter and asked for volunteers from the Board of Trustees to lead to the Heritage Heroes program.

9. COMMITTEE REPORT – PERSONNEL (PAMELA SNOW, CHAIR)

Pamela Snow presented on the work of the Personnel Committee on the last quarter.

10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT (TREVOR JONES, DIRECTOR & CEO)

Director Trevor Jones presented his quarterly report on History Nebraska’s progress from January 1 – March 31, 2022.

11. PRESENTATION ON RESULTS FROM NELIGH MILL TOWN HALL (JILL DOLBERG, DEPUTY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER)

Jill Dolberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, presented on the results from a Town Hall meeting held in Neligh that History Nebraska staff held at the request of the Board of Trustees. The Town Hall was held to consider the future of the grain elevators at Neligh Mill. After Ms. Dolberg presented the results of the town hall, the board held a robust discussion about various options for demolition, preservation, repair and interpretation of the grain elevators at the Mill.

11.1 Motion to authorize the demolition of the corn elevator and the warehouse at Neligh Mill and authorize an investigation of the feasibility of retaining the wheat elevator and the cost of stabilizing it and an investigation of use. Amended to add: Information about the use of the wheat elevator to be provided at the next board meeting and a decision about the wheat elevator discussed at that time.

Motion by Marilyn Moore, Second by Jamesena Moore

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

12. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND PLANNING FOR JULY BOARD MEETING

The board agreed to hold a strategic planning session as part of their July 2022 board meeting at Fort Robinson.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

13.1 Motion to approve the Deaccession Report from History Nebraska

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Bob Wickersham

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

14.1 Motion to proceed to Executive Session for the History Nebraska Board of Trustees to discuss contract negotiation, and potential litigation

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Marilyn Moore

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

All guests and staff, with the exception of Trevor Jones, left the Antelope County Museum and Zoom at 12:01 p.m. David Levy thanked members of the public for attending, as well as Leslie Fattig, Gail Potter, and Tyler Vacha.

14.2 Motion to return from Executive Session

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Marilyn Moore

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

Guests and staff returned to the room at 12:41 p.m.

14.3 Motion to authorize David Levy and Trevor Jones to consult with the Attorney General's Office to develop a renewed demand letter stating History Nebraska's legal position related to transfer of the Weese Farm Funds. The Board of Trustees authorizes the pursuit of litigation after 60 days if the issue is not resolved.

Motion by Dave Lopez, Second by Mark Goodman

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

15. OTHER BUSINESS & TRUSTEES ROUNDTABLE (DAVID LEVY)

16. ADJOURNMENT

16.1 Motion to adjourn

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Tom Kraus

Yes: Richard Herink, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, David Levy, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Tom Kraus, Chandra Diaz, William Wickersham

No: None

Present via Zoom and not Voting: Patricia Wagner

Not Present: Sean Flowerday, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth

Motion adopted.

Adjournment at 12:44 p.m.