

September 6, 2019

History Nebraska
1500 R Street
Lincoln
2nd floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission Meeting

Commission Members: Ron Naugle, Chairman, Trevor Jones, Secretary
Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller, Ron Hull, Aaron Wyatt
Assistant to the HOF Commission: Lana Hatcher

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Chairman, Ron Naugle
Notice to the Press was given and the Open Meetings Act was posted and made available.

Chairman Naugle called for a roll call of Commission members

Commission members present were: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Ron Naugle, Chairman, Aaron Wyatt

Tim Heller arrived at 1:15pm

Agenda item: New Governor appointments to the Hall of Fame Commission

Naugle asked Jones to report on the information that he has regarding the upcoming new Governor appointments to the Hall of Fame Commission. Terms are up for Sara Crook and Rod Bates. Both have submitted applications to the Governor for reappointment. Jones noted that other applications have been received by the Governor. Jones was told that it would be late September at the earliest before the appointments would be made. Crook and Bates will continue to serve on the commission until new appointments are confirmed by the Governor's office. The next Hall of Fame Commission meeting will be held in January and we will know who the appointees will be by that point.

Agenda item: Selection of HOF Chairman

Chairman Naugle stated that his term as Chairman is over, but he still has two more years with the commission. Naugle has been on the commission since 2003. He stated that it is a good time to make the transition to a new Chairman since the next five-year selection period will begin in January. Ron Hull stated that he was willing to serve as Chairman. **Crook made the motion to select Hull as the next Chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission. Bates seconded the motion. The commission members unanimously voted yes with a voice vote.**

Hull stated that he has great respect for Chairman Naugle and is very flattered that he could succeed him. He thanked the commission members for choosing him.

Agenda item: 2020 Hall of Fame timeline

A document containing the 2020-2025 Hall of Fame timeline was passed out to the commission members. Wyatt asked about the timeline for reviewing the nominations. Hatcher explained that it was planned to provide the nomination form online and allow sponsors to upload the required documentation. Commission members will be given access to all online submissions for review as they are submitted. The deadline for submissions will be December 2021. During 2022, the district hearing will commence, with the first hearing held in Lincoln in February and the following hearings held in each congressional district during the summer. The nominee will be chosen in August of 2022 at a meeting that will be held at the State Capitol.

An artist selection committee will be formed and will work with the Nebraska Arts Council to submit an RFP to artists, select finalists and conduct interviews before making the final selection.

Wyatt asked how many nominations were received this last five-year period, and how meeting places are selected. Hatcher stated that we received 12 nominations during this last process. Meeting places are scheduled at locations in each Congressional district. The previous locations have been in David City for the district 1 hearings, the Mormon Trail Center in Omaha for the district 2 hearings, at the Phelps County Historical Museum in Holdrege for the district 3 hearings.

Agenda item: Updating the current Hall of Fame nomination form

There was a short discussion regarding updating Hall of Fame nomination form. The previous form was emailed to the commission members for their review. The form must be reviewed and updated, before being placed online by January 1, 2020.

Action item: Lana will email the form to the commission members again to ensure that they have received it. The commission members will review the form and provide comments and/or suggested revisions to the form by October 31st. Comments can be emailed to Lana.

Agenda item: Future legislative funding for the Hall of Fame Commission

Discussion was held regarding future legislative funding for the Hall of Fame Commission.

Hull commented that the current selection process favors those who are willing to underwrite the cost of a bust. Five to six thousand dollars per year is needed finance a bust for each nomination cycle. The Commission feels that having a stable funding source from the legislature would remove the burden from the nominator and make the process open to all. Crook asked if funds could be saved for five years and not spent. Jones replied yes, funds can remain in the trust fund that was established for the Nebraska Hall of Fame, and can only be used for Hall of Fame projects. All funds for the Hall of Fame selection process goes into the trust fund. Hull asked if the money that comes in for the Cather statue is included in the same trust fund. Jones explained that funds for the Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee are separate from the Hall of Fame Commission since they are separate entities, therefore they each have a separate pot of money.

Heller asked if the commission had a potential State Senator as a sponsor for a bill that would allocate funding for the Hall of Fame. The commission members agreed that a Senator would need to be agree to sponsor the funding request. Heller stated that this would be a good time to push this legislation, since the legislature has a short session this year and it's not a budget year. The commission members agreed that some of the former senators such as Roger Wehrbein, or Herb and DiAnna Schimek could be approached to assist with finding a sponsor. Jones stated Bates suggested that a committee be formed to determine who to contact to help with process.

Heller made the motion that the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission pursue legislative funding and also form a committee to pursue other funding options. Bates seconded the motion.

Chairman Naugle asked for a roll:

Yes: Bates, Crook, Heller, Hull, Jones, Naugle, Wyatt

No: None

Motion carried

Heller suggested that the committee be made up of three people. The committee would have to come back to the full commission with their findings. Crook, Heller and Bates all volunteered to be on the committee. Heller suggested that the amount requested each year be as much as \$10,000 in case of budget shortfalls, but that this decision should be determined by the committee. Hull added that every person on the Hall of Fame Commission will have a role to play in pushing this legislation through.

Action item: The committee will come back to the commission at the January meeting with a recommendation on how to proceed. The committee will elect their own chair.

Agenda item: Other business

In other business, Jones stated that the commission will need to address the issue regarding space for future bust placement in Capitol building. Bob Ripley had met with the commission previously, stating that they were out of space for the busts at the State Capitol, and suggested that the commission loan some of the busts out to other entities in order to make space. The commission did not support his recommendation at that time. Jones stated that his feeling is that a key point of the Hall of Fame is to honor these important Nebraskans in the State Capitol. Sending any of the Hall of Fame busts away would take away from the honor of having them at the State Capitol.

Hull stated that he agreed with Jones, but suggested that the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission needs to have more publicity to be able to let people know about the Hall of Fame busts, especially for school groups. Hull added that this is a part of our state that people need to know about. Hull suggested that perhaps a publication be developed as a handout and be made available at the State Capitol. Crook stated that at one time the commission had a booklet, however, the information is now online. Jones stated that History Nebraska has created a new Hall of Fame page on their website. Crook agreed that a pamphlet is needed. Heller stated that the younger people do not know the history of those whose busts are located in the Hall of Fame. Heller also suggested that developing a specific Hall of Fame website that gives the Hall of Fame a presence could be a graduate project for a student.

Jones stated that the Commission promised Bob Ripley that we would revisit the issue, and we must have this resolved before 2022 when we choose the next inductee to the Hall of Fame. The commission should work on the longer-term projects such as available space for placement of the busts, and getting more recognition for the Hall of Fame in 2020 and 2021 when we don't have a lot of work to do as a body, such as reviewing applications, holding hearings, etc.

The commission discussed and agreed that our first priority is working on funding for busts. After progress is made in that area, we can revisit the issue of where busts are placed. Jones stated that the commission should focus on fundraising in January and then have a meeting at the State Capitol to address the space issue with Bob Ripley in the spring of 2020.

With no other business, Chairman Naugle called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Heller, second by Hull

Roll call:

Yes: Bates, Crook, Heller, Hull, Jones, Naugle, Wyatt

No: None

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm