

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

History Nebraska

1500 R Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

Dr. Don R. Gerlach Capitol View Conference Room and Zoom

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. CST

Minutes

Chairman Hull began the meeting at 3:03 p.m. and stated that a notice to the press had been given and that compliance with the Open Meetings Act has been satisfied.

Roll Call

Present: Ron Hull, Trevor Jones, Jim McKee

Present via Zoom: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Tim Heller

Not Present: Aaron Wyatt

Assistant to Commission: Anne Dorsheimer

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes for May 11, 2022 by Tim Heller

Seconded by Jim McKee

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

No: None

Not Present: Aaron Wyatt

Motion Approved

Chairperson Hull moved to the next item on the Agenda regarding the Attorney General's opinion for the nomination for Reverend Hiram Hisanori Kano.

Trevor noted that Josh Shasserre from the Attorney General's Office serves as History Nebraska's legal counsel and has provided an opinion on whether Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano is eligible for the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

The opinion states: ". . . a plain reading of the clause that "[n]o individual shall be named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame until at least thirty-five years after such person's demise" must correspond to the Commission's act of naming one selected finalist to the Hall of Fame in the final year of a given five-year period in the sentence of this section that immediately precedes the provision in question. It follows that the Commission's act of naming the selected finalist to the Hall of Fame is the starting point for the thirty-five year 'look-back period' to determine whether at least thirty-five years have elapsed from the date of death of any finalist selected by the Commission for induction. In other words, the thirty-five year waiting period from the date of death to being 'named' to the Hall of Fame corresponds with the

fifth-year of any five-year naming cycle and not from the date that such person may have been nominated or any other point of time prior to being “named” in the fifth year.”

This means that Fr. Kano is eligible to be considered during this Hall of Fame cycle because by the time he would be named to the Hall of Fame, he will have been deceased 35 years.

Chairperson Hull moved to the next item on the Agenda to approve the final list of eligible nominations for the 2020-2024 Hall of Fame cycle:

1. Grover Cleveland Alexander
2. Calvin Chapman
3. Elzada Urseba Clover
4. Howard Hanson
5. Ernst H. Herminghaus
6. Reverend Hiram Hisanori Kano
7. Malcolm Little
8. Emma Louise Pound

Motion to approve the final list of eligible nominations by Tim Heller

Seconded by Sara Crook

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

No: None

Not Present: Aaron Wyatt

Motion Approved

Chairperson Hull moved to the next item on the Agenda regarding logistical questions for the three Congressional District Hearings in July.

Logistical Questions:

- Are nominators and other testifiers able to submit further documentation for support?

Yes. Sara recollected that individuals have brought other materials to the meeting. All members stated they have no objection.

- How long can general testifiers (other than nominators at 10 minutes) testify?

Two and a half minutes (see notes on discussion below).

Discussion ensued regarding whether a person in Anne’s position would track the time or whether the Chairperson should track the time. Anne agreed to sit next to Chairperson Hull and let him know when we are running out of time and that he can vocalize reminders.

Sara noted that in the past, it had been stressed that beyond the nominator testimony, there should be new information and not a reiteration of past information already having been presented to the Commission. Tim Heller stated that he is in favor of limiting discussion of other testifiers to five minutes. Sara agreed with five or ten, but there needs to be a cap for additional testifiers that does not exceed that of the nominator.

Chairperson Hull mentioned the possibility that nominators get ten minutes and the other testifiers have no more than five minutes and that it be limited to new information.

In conclusion, Tim Heller recommended reducing the time limit to 2.5 minutes with new information and the Commission members agreed.

- Will ZOOM be available at all locations? Will we want to limit testimony via Zoom?
Zoom will be made available at all locations.
- Will nominators in the district be allowed to speak first, and then followed by other testifiers?

Yes. Nominators first, supporters second.

Chairperson Hull moved to the next item on the Agenda regarding Congressional District Hearings Agendas in July. Sara raised a few questions and noted that the District needed to be corrected on the District 3 Agenda from District 2 to District 3 for Ernst E. Herminghaus and Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano. It was clarified that this is a clerical error on the Agenda and it will be adjusted.

The Commissioners discussed allowing people to present at a hearing outside of their district and agreed that this should be allowed for the nominator's convenience. History Nebraska will send out communication again to the eight nominators with a confirmation of time and location of assignment, and list alternative locations and request confirmation on who will attend which hearing.

Chairperson Hull inquired about transportation. Trevor clarified that transportation is being provided for Commission members to the Third Congressional District hearing in Holdrege.

Sara asked if we will have an opportunity to review Draft Agendas for those two meetings located at the State Capitol, particularly since the additional meeting to select a finalist is a different process than having been done before. Anne clarified that she will replicate samples located at History Nebraska and then send these to the Commission members for review.

Jim McKee asked if it is possible to conduct further research regarding the nominations? Trevor remarked that is not the expectation, as Commissioners make their decision on what the nominator has presented. However, Tim Heller noted that Commissioners are free to do their own research if they wish. Chairperson Hull encouraged members to do so, if they so choose.

Chairperson Hull promised to keep items moving at the Congressional District Meetings and he thanked members for their participation, comments, and help this afternoon. He also congratulated Sara on her retirement and thanked her for her teaching service.

Motion to Adjourn by Tim Heller

Seconded by Rod Bates

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

No: None

Not Present: Aaron Wyatt

Motion Approved

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission adjourned at 3:38 p.m. CST