

Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission Meeting
***Authorized in Revised Statutes of Nebraska 72-724**

Friday, August 12, 2022, 2:00 p.m. CST
Nebraska State Capitol, Room 1507, 1445 K Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

MINUTES

Times are estimates only, and the Hall of Fame Commission may take items out of order. Chairperson reserved the right to waive time limits. Minutes are paraphrased and summarized, but not comprehensive.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Ron Hull, Chairperson

Chairperson Hull called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. CST and noted Notice to the Press and that we were in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Chairperson Hull explained procedures for the selection of three finalists, asked Commission members to give formal introductions, and asked for a formal roll call vote.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Jill Dolberg, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Not Present: Tim Heller

Tim Heller entered the meeting at 2:06 p.m. CST.

Chairperson Hull asked for a motion to approve the minutes for July 18, 20 and 25, 2022.

Motion by Sara Crook, Second by Rod Bates

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Jill Dolberg, Tim Heller, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Motion Adopted

Chairperson Hull drew eight names from a jar for discussion of the nominees in the following order:

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

Chairperson Hull drew Commissioner names from a jar for discussion in the following order:

- 1-Rod Bates
- 2-Jim McKee
- 3-Aaron Wyatt
- 4-Sara Crook
- 5-Jill Dolberg
- 6-Tim Heller
- 7-Ron Hull

DISCUSSION:

1 - Rod Bates noted this is difficult to do and understood that he heard a number of people say it was important to them, and how nominees were qualified. He mentioned that he had experience with Howard Hanson through NET and he did a television broadcast of a concert regarding him and how accomplished he was. He commented on Malcolm X and Tim Kenny at Nebraska Investment Finance Authority.

2 - Jim McKee noted that Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano was an Episcopalian priest and his highlighted his experiences during World War II. He mentioned the fascinating story regarding Calvin Chapman and the underground roadway and how we didn't learn as much about him. He remarked on Emma Louise Pound with regard to all the letters and the presentation, and how she left Nebraska because the University of Nebraska forced her since she could not receive a doctorate in the states. Instead, she went to Germany and completed it in two semesters. She is one of the first women professors in the United States. She lettered in men's sports in Nebraska, was President of the Modern Language Association, wrote 12 books, and instituted female cheerleaders at UNL, which was the first one on the college level. He mentioned Grover Cleveland Alexander, a major league baseball player and Elzada Urseba Clover and how she catalogued plant life in the Grand Canyon, as well as Ernst Herminhaus, a landscape architect and his involvement in Lincoln symphony, the arts and so forth. He noted that Howard Hanson was a music composer, and Pulitzer prize winner and Malcolm X who was born in Omaha and then went on to receive national attention. He learned more about this nominee any other nominee from all three cities.

3 - Aaron Wyatt noted the fascinating story of Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano being arrested and how the FBI considered important to have that impact on the community. He remarked on Calvin Chapman and the underground railroad as well as the age (late teens) at which he participated. Aaron did not realize that Emma Louise Pound was not in the Nebraska Hall of Fame. There were a large stack of letters that were repetitive of what she accomplished, but he noticed a few times where it affected them personally, such as a student in the 1960's as a divorced woman outlining how she accomplished what she accomplished. He mentioned Grover Cleveland Alexander and since he grew up as a kid playing baseball, he knew who he was but not to this extent. He was a flawed man like we are and willing to speak to that. With regard to Elzada Urseba Clover, it would have been interesting to hear more about her. Regarding Ernst Herminhaus, Ms. Wiseman in Fremont gave Aaron a personal tour of the Abbot Garden from 1925. He spent his former years in Albion, a local connection he did not know that existed. For Howard Hanson, he mentioned the band camps in High School and the camp in Michigan and the enormous talent. He remarked on President Eisenhower's support for Howard Hanson. He emphasized that the Malcolm X presentations were very passionate and humbling and he is hoping to educate himself more. He is trying to understand who he is and search through some of his own biases, he asked, who was Aaron Wyatt and to reach down and find that connection. Aaron noted the humbling process to review candidates.

4 - Sara Crook noted the great immigration story of Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano and how he left a life of privilege in Japan and chose Nebraska. He chose Nebraska, which is a great way to qualify to be in the Nebraska Hall of Fame. He lobbied against anti-Japanese bills after World War II and helped people like him who face discrimination all the time. He found a way to be accepted into society and lived in the western part of Nebraska. He became a naturalized citizen and he became the only Japanese American from Nebraska to be sent to an internment camp. The FBI was watching him. He wasn't bitter when he came out. He continued to help Japanese Americans. Calvin Chapman might have endured significant jail time had he been caught helping runaway slaves. Dr. Crook has done a portrayal of the underground railroad and civil war and how Nebraska did not ban slavery until 1861. Emma Louise Pound was nominated ten years ago, and she was her number one vote. Emma Louise Pound had to go across the ocean to get a PhD. During the Victorian age, it was amazing what she was able to do. She noted that the Modern Languages Association is a premier organization. She was Vice President and then President later in her career. Pound humbly referred to herself as a "throttlebottom" while the Vice President of the Modern Language Association. Crook referenced Benjamin Franklin and his famous comment that a VP was a "superfluous excellency" that had a title but no power. She is an advocate for women and men, and not just for sports, but for life in general even at the detriment of her own self. She mentioned that Grover Cleveland Alexander was familiar with St. Paul and committed they are to Uncle Dode. He is in the Baseball Hall of Fame. For Nebraska Hall of Fame, athletics and entertainment have

secondary consideration but she is glad he's in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Elzada Urseba Clover was a woman in a man's world in realms where very few women venture. With regard to Ernst Herminghaus, she got to know the State Capitol due to Bob Ripley and others and see the fountains. It is one of her favorite buildings and she is impressed that he has three projects registered on the National Registry of Historic places. She noted the Holmes Park vision to the State Capitol. Howard Hanson is an esteemed musician and the most famous to come out of Nebraska. He was the first director of the Eastman School of Music and remained in that position for 40 years. His music is played very often on Nebraska Public Media. He was born and raised in Nebraska and kept coming back and giving back to his hometown. She was impressed by the presentation for Malcolm X in Omaha and also at Holdrege. She taught some civil rights courses in Nebraska history and about episodes in Omaha. Crook went on a civil rights tour of the Deep South with 17 students returning just before COVID shut down the country. She was shocked by how some conditions still exist. Schmeeka Simpson gave her a Malcolm X book by Alex Haley. The only problem with Malcolm X, from her perspective is that he never chose Nebraska and he left before Nebraska could have an impact on him. Conditions forced him to leave and he did not come back until late in his career. Ten years ago she did not vote for him there and it is the same reason she will never vote for Gerald Ford. He was born in Nebraska, so he qualifies, but he never lived in Nebraska beyond his infant years, so he couldn't be shaped by Nebraska. It is the same quandary, but technically both qualify. She inquired if Michigan has a Hall of Fame? Crook noted there is a Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta and encouraged the Malcolm X Foundation to pursue that possibility. She asserted that Malcolm X is amazing and we need more diversity on the Hall of Fame. She is looking for a Nebraskan to put in the Nebraska Hall of Fame. She reiterated that we need more diversity in the Nebraska Hall of Fame and to promote and keep best and brightest in Nebraska. The Nebraska Hall of Fame is one way to promote that. If not picked, she encourage to pursue things like historical markers, naming of streets, schools, and other memorable and appropriate ways to honor people.

5-Jill Dolberg stated that she knew nothing about Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano before this process. He came to Nebraska to study Agricultural Economics in 1918. His past started out with agriculture and diverged once the world intervened. He served as an interpreter and teacher for immigration. He was an Episcopalian Bishop that helped with legislation. What a way to make a difference in a terrible situation. She stated she would have liked to have known more about Calvin Chapman and his age is interesting. Emma Louise Pound speaks to her as a female wanting to get involved in academia in the Victorian era. She was dedicated to tennis, and then changed to golf, and she changed and was talented at everything she picked up let alone all her achievements in academics. She noted all the organizations she helped found. She noted that in the letters of support, there is a letter from a ten year old. Grover Cleveland Alexander was a baseball hero, a talented pitcher, and had huge achievements on the national scale. It is a human story and a difficult life. Elzada Urseba Clover specialized in botany. In 1938, she planned to participate in an expedition in the Grand Canyon and identify species of plants. Her survey is the only comprehensive one prior to construction of the Grand Canyon Dam. Ernst Herminghaus is an architectural historian, and she is familiar with Woodshire, Pioneers Park, and how it is all a part of a larger plan. Howard Hanson was born in Wahoo in 1896 and he had an amazing career. He was very talented. Malcolm X was an amazing individual and the testimony resonated with her long after that night. She learned things she didn't know and conducted additional research and had thoughts on his impact. He is described as one of the most impactful African Americans in history and he spread Islam among African Americans in the United States. He was a vibrant articulator of many African Americans. His autobiography is resonating and continues its impact. He and it is meaningful decades after his death. He has a vibrancy of voice, clarity of analysis, fearlessness of opposition against white supremacy by any means necessary. She stated she is less concerned about his Nebraska connection because what happened to his family and what drove him out of Omaha is fundamental to how he developed in his Omaha. She stated that any concerns are tempered by the range of his impact over the world and over time.

6 - Tim Heller noted the fascinating stories, incredible Nebraskans, and how sadly, they only get to choose one every five years. He mentioned the new nominees: Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano, Elzada Urseba Clover, and Ernst Herminghaus. He has heard about Calvin Chapman, Malcolm X, and Grover Cleveland Alexander before. Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano represents forgiveness and resilience and overcoming adversity with impact on Nebraska and the nation. Calvin Chapman represents bringing people to freedom and a part of American History, and how we need to continue to work on freedom and liberty. Emma Louise Pound was dedicated to American language and her brother

is already in the Nebraska Hall of Fame. She was a renaissance woman and person with phenomenal abilities, knowledge, education, and impact. He is familiar with Grover Cleveland Alexander as a lifelong cubs fan and remembers him well as a young man. President Ronald Reagan portrayed him. Elzada Urseba Clover is an enlightening story with regard to education and impact and the Grand Canyon. Ernst Herminghaus had impact and dedication to improving landscape architecture. Howard Hanson has been nominated two times. He noted the Eastman Institute and the Interlochen Center for the Arts regarding his talent. He noted the awesome presentations for Malcolm X and echoed what Jill said about the impact of Nebraska on him was lifelong and there was worldwide impact; one of overcoming adversity, learning, educating self, change and healing. His life goals are to have impact the way these people have the impact. He noted fighters of equality and overcoming adversity, and the impact on the country and the world.

7 - Ron Hull remarked on Grover Cleveland Alexander's influence on the popularity of baseball, how it is indelible and will last forever. He had a competitive spirit. Ron noted the musical portrayal about Grover Cleveland's wife; and him as a high school senior, as well as an adult during his professional experience. He noted that they should be proud of that performance and to put that kind of effort into something they believe in, and how fun it was. He emphasized how Malcolm X turned his life around and how that aspect to him is an important lesson. He said you don't have to stay in the same circumstance or rut. We can change. He exemplifies that to so many people. He is a leading voice for equality, freedom, and inclusion. He was an advocate for human rights and that is what he stood for. His life has had international impact. Ernst Herminghaus was the first practicing landscape architect in Nebraska. He designed the gardens in this magnificent building. We are still beneficiaries of his talent and what he accomplished. Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano was all about justice and fairness and inclusion and that all men are created equal. He was in an intern camp in Nebraska. In 1950, this man help passed legislation to give living Japanese reparations for what the government did to them, but he refused to take any. He had high standards for a man. Elzada Urseba Clover is the first woman to successfully meander through in a boat around the Grand Canyon. The first woman who tried it, she drowned. However, she said, "men can drown just as fast as women." She studied the botany of the Grand Canyon and was a professor at the University of Michigan. Calvin Chapman emigrated to Nebraska from Ohio, and starting at 16 years old, he spent the next 70 years of his life building Nebraska City. This reflects those time honored qualities: honesty, working hard, and service. That's how you build great countries. He remarked how Emma Louise Pound was special as an academic, professor, and advocate for women. During that time, wives were considered property of their husbands and women could not even vote. We owe this woman a lot. She was involved in all aspects of life. She was an honored champion of every aspect of her life. Her impact is a force today for all of us. He emphasized that Howard Hanson founded the Eastman school. He has heard symphonies and his other classical works often. He is the most renowned musician from our state.

Chairperson Hull drew Commissioner names from a jar in the following order and these were each Commissioner's votes for three finalists:

Jim McKee:

Howard Hanson
Emma Louise Pound
Ernst Herminghaus

Ron Hull:

Emma Louise Pound
Howard Hanson
Malcolm Little (aka Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz)

Jill Dolberg:

Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano
Emma Louise Pound
Malcolm Little (aka Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz)

Sara Crook:

Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano
Emma Louise Pound
Howard Hanson

Tim Heller:

Calvin Chapman
Grover Cleveland Alexander
Malcolm Little (aka Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz)

Aaron Wyatt:

Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano
Malcolm Little (aka Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz)
Emma Louise Pound

Rod Bates:

Malcolm Little (aka Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz)
Emma Louise Pound
Howard Hanson

Results:

Emma Louise Pound – 6
Malcolm Little (aka Malcolm X, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz) – 5
Howard Hanson – 4
Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano – 3
Ernst Herminghaus – 1
Calvin Chapman – 1
Grover Cleveland Alexander – 1
Elzada Urseba Clover – 0

Members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission agreed with the aforementioned vote tally. Chairperson Hull noted the meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022 to make a final selection.

Chairperson Hull asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Rod Bates, Second by Sara Crook.

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Jill Dolberg, Tim Heller, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

No: None

Motion Adopted

The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission Meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m. CST.