

Call to Order

A meeting of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees was held in the Dr. Don R. Gerlach Capitol View Room at the History Nebraska Headquarters building in Lincoln, Nebraska on January 18, 2019.

Attendees:

Cherrie Beam-Callaway, Lance Bristol, Ann Bruntz, Kim Elder, Katherine Endacott, Tom Kraus, David Levy, Marilyn Moore, John Nelson, Vickie Schaepler, Connie Spellman, Eileen Wirth, Bryan Zimmer

Member Not in Attendance: Charles Schroeder

History Nebraska Staff in Attendance: Trevor Jones, Lynne Ireland, Michelle Furby, Lana Hatcher

Guests: Trixie Schmidt, Liz Bavitz, and Tony Dworak from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

Approval of the October 26, 2018 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Bristol, Second by Beam-Callaway

Roll Call yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Kraus, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Abstain - Levy

Not Present: Schroeder

Motion approved

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Report by Liz Bavitz and Trixie Schmidt

- The Foundation's executive committee and board of directors will be reviewing the Weese Farm report next week. Trixie Schmidt will share the report with Kim Elder.
- The Foundation's goal is to have a draft of the operating agreement ready for review by the middle of February.
- The 2019 NSHSF Legislative Reception is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019 at the Nebraska History Museum
- The Foundation's 77th Annual Meeting will be held in Hastings on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, 2019. History Nebraska board members are invited to attend.
- The Foundation will be hosting an orientation for all History Nebraska board members on March 4th from 2 – 4 pm at the Nebraska History Museum.
- Dworak reported that \$1.4million has been raised out of the \$1.8million goal for the Chimney Rock expansion.

Committee ReportsFinance Committee - Ann Bruntz

Item: Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2018

- Total General Fund Appropriation = \$4,959,376.72
- Amount expended/encumbered through 12-21-18 = \$1,997,704.30
- Amount of general funds remaining as of 12-31-18 = \$2,961,672.42
- Cash Fund authority appropriated for 2018-19 = \$4,232,919.37
- Amount of Cash authority remaining as of 12-21-18 = \$3,479,119.58
- Federal Fund authority appropriated for 2018-19 = \$1,092,573.41
- Amount of Federal authority remaining as of 12-31-18 = \$766,906.60

Vehicle Registrations and Plate fees for the Sesquicentennial plates continue to come in. As of 12-31-18 we have received \$28,658.13. This amount will gradually begin to drop.

Motion to accept the Finance report made by Bruntz, Second by Schaepler

Roll Call, yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Kraus, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder

Motion approved

Governance Committee Report – Bryan Zimmer

The Governance committee would like to use a proposed gift to History Nebraska via the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation as an opportunity to create a mutually agreed upon process for handling gift agreements between the two organizations. Worth made a motion to that effect seconded by Elder.

Dworak requested the name of the potential donor be removed from the motion as the gift is in process and is not yet complete or public. Zimmer requested Wirth to rescind her motion in order to use new wording.

Wirth rescinded the motion. Wirth then made a new motion stating that: **the Governance committee recommends that we use the anticipated gift as an opportunity to form a mutually agreed upon gift arrangement between the Foundation and History Nebraska. Motion seconded by Elder**

Roll Call, yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Kraus, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder

Motion approved

Personnel Committee Report - Lance Bristol and Marilyn Moore

Item: Commitment to Heritage Awards

Bristol and Beam-Callaway initiated the Commitment to Heritage Awards to honor Nebraskans who are involved with Nebraska history through volunteering and working with local historical organizations.

Bristol and Beam-Callaway would like to send out mailings to all historical organizations in communities in all 93 counties. This will create an opportunity for the History Nebraska board members to go out into the communities to present the awards. The board will need to help with the logistics. An Ad Hoc personnel committee will be responsible in overseeing the project. **If anyone would like to be on this committee, they are to contact Lance Bristol or Marilyn Moore.** Wirth stated that she would like to be on the committee. Bristol and Beam-Callaway asked the board for approval to proceed with working out the details and bringing it back to the board at the April meeting. Levy stated that this would be a great opportunity to enlist the state senators to identify people in their districts who are deserving of this award.

No official action was taken at this time but the general agreement was for the ad hoc committee to proceed with planning and then report back on official next steps.

Item: Board evaluation - Discussion will be covered during the Executive Session

Director's Report - Trevor Jones

Jones gave each board member a book about board responsibilities titled: *The Ultimate Board Member Handbook*.

Item - Project update

Jones gave a slide presentation on History Nebraska goals, project updates, the Cather property transfer, legislative goals for the 2019 session, the Chimney Rock Visitor Center renovation, and the History Nebraska technology strategy.

Schmidt asked the board if they had any thoughts on having a license plate with historical reference produced where History Nebraska could receive the profits. Schaepler stated that when the Sesquicentennial plates expires, we could replace it with a new design. However, with a new design, 500 people would need to pay the \$75 upfront for the plates before approval of the plate could be given.

Nelson inquired about LB310. Jones stated that the bill is to establish deadlines for the Department of Revenue related to the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit. The current law provides History Nebraska firm deadlines for review periods, but the law does not put those same time limits on the Department of Revenue for their reviews.

Jones showed the board a video on History Nebraska Archeology. We are working on an exhibit about the questions the archeologists are most often asked. This is part of a series of videos we are producing with the Department of Transportation. They will be used in our exhibits, on Youtube and also may be placed in kiosks at rest stops.

Tom Kraus left the meeting at 10:08am

Jones handed out copies of the History Nebraska VTO (Vision Traction Organizer) that shows History Nebraska's three-year plan and one-year goals. Jones stated that we are currently a 75-person organization and our needs analysis indicates we need to be an 87-person organization in next three years to reach our goals. Most of those new positions will require digital skills. Our customers are increasingly using digital resources, but our skills and infrastructure are not meeting their needs. There will be substantial costs for the acquisition of equipment, maintenance, and contract fees.

Infrastructure is estimated to have upfront costs of \$150,000 this year with licensing and maintenance fees totaling an additional \$40,000 per year. The cost for the next biennium for services and additional personnel is roughly \$300,000. In addition, we have IT positions to hire. We currently have 1.5 IT staff, and our outside consultants have told us we need 6.

The board discussed the technology needs of the organization. The state does not have a complete strategy for accessing digital records at this time. The state is currently working with Amazon for cloud storage, but History Nebraska's needs are different from other agencies as we need to keep digital records for decades. We will need to determine how much of the state's technology services can we use or strike out on our own.

Bruntz stated that her sister is the Senior Vice-President of AWS (Amazon Web Service) and would be good person to discuss this issue with. Jones stated that we would definitely contact her and follow up on this.

Jones gave an update on the Curiosity Project. We have applied for another grant to continue the project and will hear back about the grant in Oct, 2019. In the meantime, we have contracted with consultants again to bring them back in Feb. of 2019 regardless of whether or not we get the grant. They will work 25 staff members this year on how to grow curiosity in their work.

Jones shared the History Nebraska leadership team scorecard with the board, stating that the nine numbers on the card are the numbers that we look at every week as our traction model. We look at this on a weekly basis, but also roll these up on a quarterly trend and address issues as a group. There was a question on Open Seats listed on the scorecard. Jones explained that open seats are number of positions that we are planning on hiring in the fiscal year and where our progress is on those hires.

Administrative issues

Bruntz gave an update on the Joint Operating Agreement. The committee met several times, but came to a halt. Things will move forward now after receiving Leslie Fattig's report. The next steps will be to blend all of the information and work out an agreement. Bruntz will be leaving for Arizona and will return on March 17th. She will be available via internet.

Item: Revision to the bylaws to reflect new membership model – New membership model was approved at the October board meeting. Since membership is laid out in the By-Laws, the By-Laws have to be approved at this meeting.

Motion to approve the revision to the bylaws reflecting the new membership model made by Moore, Second by Beam-Callaway.

Roll Call yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder, Kraus

Motion approved

Item: Deaccessions

Motion to approve deaccessions made by Bruntz, Second by Endacott.

Roll Call yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder, Kraus

Motion approved

Item: Discussion of board meeting times and agenda

It had been suggested that the board committee meetings begin at 9:00am, and the full board meet at 10:00am. It was thought at 8:00am is too early to meet, especially if there is an evening event scheduled for the night before.

The board agreed to leave meeting times as is. President Zimmer stated that he will reach out to board members to have dinner together the night before the quarterly meetings as a means to get to know one another. Zimmer will schedule a place to meet for dinner in Hastings where the board will hold their next meeting.

Item: **Discussion of Gala and Next Steps** (Katherine Endacott, Eileen Wirth, Connie Spellman)

We will do a special event this year, but we will not be calling it a gala. Due to issues with the Omaha World Herald, and with the invitations coming out so late, we were unable to do the event last October. A video featuring important historic newspaper families had been produced for the event. Endacott will send the video out to board for viewing. Endicott provided a discussion draft proposing another kind of event next fall that would involve some type of celebration about the importance of newspapers. The event could possibly be some type of all-day seminar. It could be a teaching opportunity tying History Nebraska into that avenue.

At 11:17 President Zimmer called for an **Executive Session** regarding matters of real estate and personnel.

Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Moore, Second by Levy

Roll Call yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder, Kraus

Motion approved

At 11:30am a **Motion to come out of executive session was made by Levy, Second by Elder**

Roll Call yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder, Kraus

Motion approved

Other Business & Trustees Roundtable

- Jones handed out Volunteer time sheets to the board and requested that they mark down the amount of time that they have spent on board business and return the forms to the Executive Assistant.
- Kim Elder reported that he is now the Chair of the Keith County Board of Commissioners
- Vickie Schaepler is planning a trip to Japan.
- Marilyn Moore is involved with the Historic Preservation Oral History Project in Omaha, and met the two women who were hired for the job. They told her that the work that we are doing is cutting edge, like nothing else in the nation. Moore stated that Jill Dolberg, is thinking of this project as a phase one. The goal is to have historians use this raw data to write and think about how policy is made.
- Cherrie Beam-Callaway inquired if anyone knows of a project to that needs the bricks of a sod house. Jones stated he'd check with staff.
- David Levy and Bryan Zimmer both noted that the Historic Tax Credit Program is reaching momentum now. More projects are beginning in more places across the state.
- Endacott requested stationery and envelopes be provided to the board members so they can write letters to the legislature.

President Zimmer called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Schaepler, Second by Levy

Roll Call yes: Callaway, Bristol, Bruntz, Elder, Endacott, Levy, Moore, Nelson, Schaepler, Spellman, Wirth, Zimmer

Not Present: Schroeder, Kraus

Motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 12:14pm

Next meeting dates:

Friday, April 26, 2019 Hastings Hastings Museum

Friday, July 19, 2019 Alliance Knight Museum

Friday, October Omaha

history.nebraska.gov