

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

Monday, July 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m. CST
Nebraska History Museum, Gilmore Room, 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508
Congressional District 1 / Public Hearing Minutes

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. A recording is available upon request.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Sara Crook called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. CST and noted Notice to the Press and that we were in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. She gave a quick review of the public hearing meetings to be held on Wednesday, July 20 for Congressional District 2 and the following Monday on July 25, 2022 for Congressional District 3. She asked Commission members to give formal introductions and then asked for a formal roll call vote of Commission members.

ROLL CALL:

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

Not Present: Tim Heller, Ron Hull

Sara Crook asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Motion by Jim McKee, Second by Aaron Wyatt

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

Not Present: Tim Heller, Ron Hull

Motion passed

Sara Crook described the appropriation and payment for creation of the bust dependent on the winner. She conducted a quick review of time for nominators as well as supplemental testimony, adding that there is open time afterwards for public comment or non-scheduled testimony.

NOMINATOR PRESENTATIONS/ DISTRICT 1

6:06 p.m. Presentation on Grover Cleveland Alexander, Randall Moody, Lincoln

Randall submitted for the record signed petitions with 321 signatures for Grover Cleveland Alexander and noted there were no paid circulators. He conducted a review of his birth and rookie record, his strikeouts in the World Series and his death on November 4, 1950. He noted a memorialized historical marker near St. Paul and how he is already being honored. He mentioned that Jim Leeke will testify for supplemental testimony and he introduced his great niece and the great great niece of Grover Cleveland Alexander, Cheryl Linden. In Holdrege, we will hear testimony from Cheryl, as well as the local relationship to him and how Howard County has honored his death. He addressed qualifications that state there is secondary consideration to athletics and entertainment and he reemphasized his service to country and deep roots. He also noted that there were little opportunities to resolve alcoholism and re-emphasized his farm boy roots and baseball exploits, as well as his wartime service.

Sara Crook asked if there were questions for Randall and if there were further testimony.

Tim Heller joined at 6:15 p.m. CST

6:18 p.m. Presentation on Elzada Urseba Clover via Zoom, Kevin Workman (ZOOM), Lincoln

Kevin indicated that Elzada Urseba Clover is his Geat Great Great Aunt and provided a review of birth to parents and siblings and the family farm in Nemaha County. He noted that she represents grit, determination and hard work as virtues. He spoke of her high school years, time at Peru State College and that she is a Teacher's College graduate, as well as her time at the University of Michigan with an MS in Botony. It was a men's world and there were very few women in science. She is a passionate educator. He noted that she did a botanical survey of the river in the Grand Canyon area and noted the Nevills Expedition in 1938. She was the first woman to travel by boat down the Colorado river and survive. Her passion and academia gave her adventure. She is also the Curator of the Botanical Gardens in 1957. He finalized that she is an academian, adventurer, activist and a pioneering trailblazer.

Sara Crook asked if there were questions for Kevin and if there were further testimony.

6:27 p.m. Presentation on Howard Hanson, Eric Bachenberg, Lincoln

Eric noted the two-story Queen Anne style house in Wahoo and that Howard Hanson was not the first owner or the last. He lived there for 30 years until he moved to Rochester in 1925. It had been foreclosed for nonpayment of taxes. Howard Hanson came to Wahoo, paid the taxes, titled the house, deeded it to the City and passed it to History Nebraska. The music department was restored in the 1960's and Midland College donated it to Saunders historical society. Here, discs of Howard Hanson's music is available including a complete score of piano sonata. They celebrated a 125th birthday in Wahoo last year by having a concert at Bethlehem Church, family church. The score was lost, but later found the manuscript. In the past, the best a person can obtain for education in music was a BA. However, helped lead 35 honorary doctorates. People have come to see the house often in Wahoo and \$45,000 was raised to restore the piano and the maintenance of the house.

Sara Crook asked if there were questions for Howard Hanson and if there were further testimony.

6:37 p.m. Testimony from Nancy L Schoen, Musician and Piano Teacher, Lincoln

Nancy noted that she is a graduate from high school in Wahoo, Nebraska. He is the first Director from the Eastman School in Rochester, New York. Mr. Eastman asked him to specifically to be the Director of the School of Music and has been the Director for the first 40 years He is very well respected in the music world. She is a professional musician and she has played his music.

Sara Crook asked if there were further questions.

6:39 p.m. Presentation on Emma Louise Pound, Debra White, Lincoln

Debra noted this is the second time Emma Louise Pound has been nominated for women's rights. She was an athlete, musician, professor and linguist. Her career opportunities were limited, but she was deeply admired by her students. She existed in the Victorian Era (late 1800's and early 1900's), when there were many obstacles. Delicate, fragile layers of clothing existed, and it was improper to show ankles. Women had no rights to vote or own property. Wives were not allowed to work and were considered the husband's property. She was an advocate for change and making a difference, that women were worthy and deserving of equality. She was an athletic, professional and dynamic woman. At the end of the 19th century, athletics and education set women free by showing what women and men can do. It exemplified leadership ideals, advocated for self and others and had

an impact on the university across the United States and internationally. She was an expert on folklore, culture, language and dialectic studies. She is the author of 12 books and many articles and was associated with many professional societies. She was the first female graduate to earn a PhD in 1900, but had to go to the University in Germany, because no one would accept her based on gender. She is one of the first professors as a woman. She is with the National Association of University of Women, Treasurer of Council and Teachers and English, and two buildings were named after her. She achieved and excelled. She earned the University Honor Pound on October 1st for Title 9. She memorialized and show cased advancement of women's sports. She stands out by how accomplished she was and she never left Nebraska. She has courage, exemplifies outstanding achievement, and exhibits noble qualities. She is a hero and a treasure.

Sara Crook asked if there were any questions. Jim McKee asked if she actually did win the Lincoln Nebraska golf championship, but not allowed to take the title? It was clarified that she lettered in tennis and that she did not enter the golf championship competition.

Sara Crook asked for further testimony.

6:53 p.m. Testimony from Lynn Roper, Lincoln

Lynn stated that Emma is well chronicled with many Nebraskans old and young. She was a feminist, trailblazer and leader. There is a video of Ollie's class that will be sent after the hearing. She noted that Emma Louise Pound was president of the Mari Sandoz Society and that there was a lifelong friendship. Emma encouraged Mari Sandoz to stick with the language of the pioneers, and to be an authentic storyteller. She used the language of the region. She had an honorary PhD from the University and Emma Louise Pound had influence with the Board of Regents to make this happen for Mari Sandoz. She continually chose to be here in Nebraska for her professional life.

Sara Crook asked for questions and further testimony.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND TESTIMONY / OTHER DISTRICTS AS NEEDED

7:00 p.m. Testimony from Richard Sutton, emeritus landscape professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Richard noted an article he wrote in 1987 that Commissioner members should have to read. He emphasized that Ernst Herminghaus was born and raised in Nebraska and went to Harvard for design and landscape architecture. It is the standard for Lincoln's development and character. He worked for various contractors for the Department of Defense. He was not actively involved in military action because he only had one eye. He worked on Beaux Arts Design, a cultural English garden with French punctuated landmarks. Pioneers Park and Goodhue Boulevard are strategically placed and he had the foresight to see those connections. He was part of the Garden Club in Lincoln. His designs have been with the National Register, achieved national historical landmark recognition, and received the centennial medallion recognition. Few have multiple registries. Havelock Park, Goodhue Mall, Antelope Park extension, Blanche Peters Garden, WWII work on Hastings Naval Depo, and an Ashland water treatment plant have all been mentioned as products of his work.

When asked how many people were in support of this nominee, six people stood up.

Testimony from Steve Shively regarding Hiram Kano Hisanori, former high school teacher, Lincoln

Steve noted that he wanted to give supplemental information as a resident of the 1st congressional district. He explained that he is a former high school teacher. He noted that the Hall of Fame is a wonderful resource for students to write stories, research h, explore potential careers and more. As an Asian American, he is the only one with with experience in internment camps. He attended Episcopal Church and a service was help to honor Father Kano. The presence of Kano's son was in the room. He noted it would be good to honor him at the Nebraska State Capitol.

Sara Crook asked if there were questions or any other testifiers.

OTHER BUSINESS

7:16 p.m. Sara Crook thanked the nominators and work to present their case. It is all great reading and listening material. She noted it is an honor to be on the Commission. She reiterated that the Commission members do their best to give time and energy and it is ultimately, a difficult decision. She reminded the audience that the next hearing is in congressional district 2 at the Revive Center in Omaha, and the following next hearing is in congressional district 3 at the Phelps County Historical Society in Holdrege. She also stated there will be two meetings at the State Capitol, Room 1507, in Lincoln on Friday, August, 12 at 2:00 p.m. CST to select 3 finalists and then a final meeting on Monday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m. CST. She summarized funding mechanisms for the bus in that we receive \$10,000 per year from state appropriations, and that it takes a year to plan the bust and a year to plan the induction. This event is once every five years and has its due share of attention.

ADJOURN

Sara Crook asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Tim Heller, Second by Rod Bates.

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

No: None

Motion adopted

The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission adjourned at 7:28 p.m. CST