



**History Nebraska Board of Trustees
Strategic Planning Session and Official Board Meeting
Friday, July 15, 2022**

**Fort Robinson State Park
Buffalo Barracks Squad Room
Soldier Creek Rd & US Hwy 20, Crawford, NE 69339**

**8:30 a.m. MDT
Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME AND REMARKS

David Levy, President of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees, called the Strategic Planning Session to order at 8:36 a.m. MDT, noted the legal notice and that the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act. He welcomed members of the public, introduced Jill Dolberg, Interim Director/CEO of History Nebraska, and staff, Matt Mason, State Poet, and then initiated a roll call to determine a quorum.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham

3. PRESENTATION BY MATT MASON

Mr. Mason presented regarding the process of writing and engaged members into a poetry writing exercise that allowed for reading participation. Afterwards, Mr. Mason conducted a question and answer session.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

4.1 Board Mechanics: communication, dissemination of strategic plan, committee structure, and board responsibilities:

- Good communication from Anne
- Anne helpful in managing meeting times
- Executive Director monthly reports appreciated
- Deaccessions List: photo sampling of highlights; in Board orientation - explain Deaccession list; where are all Collections housed and what are the conditions?
- What is library book accessibility and why do we have them?
- Committee meetings: short notice and meeting times are inconvenient or impossible to join due to work schedules; what about meeting prior to board meetings or on the same day? It could be in person again. Meetings ahead of time allows for Zoom and/or Hybrid.
- Do we need different Committees? What about a Dreaming Idea Generation Committee? Outreach/Promotion/Education can become a third committee. There is an option to appoint Task Forces for specific programs plus non board members.

4.2 Board Development: ideas for board development, board recruitment, and organizational growth:

- Recruitment is difficult in the 3rd Congressional District; signatures and fees, as well as awkwardness.
- There is an option for Board members to mentor new Board members in the first term to help acclimate with context.
- In Board Orientation, there is an option to give a list of past Board members, and also a list with Board members with a description of expertise and to give pointers. There is the option to give Officer mentoring and to explain their roles at Orientation.

4.3 Future of History Nebraska: Dream Big and be Candid:

- Research opportunities; digitization opened up audiences and their interests.
- What are our opportunities?
- Childs hands-on activities at the Museum is an idea
- Grow Social media
- Membership model innovations – seek Youth; should it be free for students? Should we have discounted memberships for staff or history departments? What about Vendor events?
- Placed-based educational experiences at sites
- Community festivals involve volunteers plus staff or a year round intern; Fair veterans Memorials, State/County Fairs
- Jesuit Model
- Pamphlets for Board members when they attend local events
- Curriculum for Grades 4 – 12
- Collaboration between History Nebraska, History Nebraska Foundation, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation
- Traveling Exhibits, Ford center, Trailer Micro Exhibits in unexpected spaces, store fronts, retirement homes, community spaces and corporate partnerships

Break at 11:15 a.m. MDT

Returned at 11:52 a.m. MDT

5. OFFICIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

David Levy, President of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees, welcomed board members and the public to the Official Board of Trustees meeting and requested a roll call.

6. ROLL CALL

Present: Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William “Bob” Wickersham

7. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Bob Puschendorf, 3511 Mohawk Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510 introduced himself as retired, having previously worked 35 years in the State Historic Preservation Office and 25 years as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the Nebraska State Historical Society. Bob provided members of the board with two more letters of support in a folder regarding the preservation of Neligh Mill Elevator. Bob spoke of his experience at the Nebraska State Historical Society and demonstrated his opposition to the demolition of any part of the Neligh Mill Elevators.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON APRIL 8, 2022 AND JUNE 6, 2022

8.1 Motion to approve Minutes from April 8, 2022

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by David Lopez
Yes: Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez,, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth
No: None
Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham
Motion Adopted

8.2 Motion to approve Minutes from June 6, 2022

Motion by Marilyn Moore, Second by David Lopez
Yes: Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez,, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth, Chandra Diaz
No: None
Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham
Motion Adopted

9. HISTORY NEBRASKA FOUNDATION REPORT (Tyler Vacha, Executive Director of HNF)

Tyler Vacha gave an updated presentation regarding the History Nebraska Foundation.

9.1 Motion to approve the name “Donald R Swanson Digitization Laboratory” for the new History Nebraska Digitization Lab (in exchange for \$50,000 over 3 years)

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Sean Flowerday

Yes: Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday

No: None

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William “Bob” Wickersham

Motion Adopted

10. NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION REPORT (Gail Potter, President of NSHSF)

Gail Potter gave an updated financial presentation regarding the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and made a few recommendations regarding activities for local tours and restaurants.

*the NSHSF report is available upon request

Break at 12:26 p.m. MDT for Lunch

Reconvened at 12:38 p.m. MDT

11. COMMITTEE REPORT – FINANCE (Michelle Furby, CFO of History Nebraska)

Jamesena Moore, Treasurer on the Board of Trustees for History Nebraska was excused and not present. Michelle Furby, CFO of History Nebraska gave an updated financial presentation regarding History Nebraska.

*The History Nebraska report is available upon request.

12. COMMITTEE REPORT – PERSONNEL (Eileen Wirth, Committee member)

Pamela Snow, Chair of the Personnel Committee, was excused and not present. Eileen Wirth, a Board of Trustee and member of the Committee gave a report to the board.

13. COMMITTEE REPORT – GOVERNANCE (David Levy, Chair)

Marilyn Moore gave an update on the logistics of the Heritage Heroes program, which is administered through the Board of Trustees and not History Nebraska staff; and she thanked everyone for their participation.

Marilyn Moore, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Board slate for the 2022 October Elections, and are as follows:

Arlen Wayne (District 3) from Imperial, Chase County for election
Tanya Storer (District 3) from Whitman, Cherry County for election
Philip Clement (District 2) from Omaha, Douglas County for election
Pamela Snow (District 1) from Ashland, Cass County for re-election

*Clarification that Arlen Wayne is ‘Arlan Wine’ (District 3) from Wauneta

These are three-year terms and four elected members. Richard Herink from District 1 will apply for re-appointment by the Governor in 2022.

13.1 Motion to approve the Board Slate of Nominees for the 2022 Election

Motion by Marilyn Moore, Second by David Lopez
Yes: Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman
No: None
Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William “Bob” Wickersham
Motion Adopted

13.2 Plans for the October 2022 Annual Meeting

Eileen Wirth, Connie Spellman, and Jamesena Moore have expressed interest in working on the Annual Meeting 2022 with a focus on North Omaha. Thursday, October 13, 2022 is the Annual Meeting and Reception. Friday, October 14, 2022 is the Official Board Meeting. Eileen noted the published book, 24th and Glory and offered a new to-be-published book, Women in Omaha. Indigo Hotel and the Kimpton Cottonwood were suggested for locations for overnight stay. A tour by Preston Love, as well as the Community of Contemporary Art were suggested for activities and venues in North Omaha, or Joslyn Castle, or the Ford Center. She noted to invite Omaha City Officials and Senators.

14. NELIGH MILL ELEVATOR FOLLOW UP (Jill Dolberg, Interim CEO/Director of History Nebraska)

Jill Dolberg, Interim CEO/Director of History Nebraska, gave an updated presentation regarding the Neligh Mill Elevators based on reports, public input and cost; as well as four options.

Discussion between Bob Puschendorf and members of the Board of Trustees and staff ensued regarding the stewardship, community, safety, ADA accessibility, electricity in the surrounding areas, funding, damage, history of the building based on product lines, cost benefit, reconstruction and phases of anticipated work regarding the elevators. An educational interpretive exhibit is offered as a suggestion. Bob Puschendorf reiterated he desired both wheat and corn elevators to remain.

*Neligh reports are available upon request

15. MOTION TO DEMOLISH BOTH WHEAT AND CORN ELEVATORS IN NELIGH, AS LONG AS PROFESSIONAL DOCUMENTATION OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH ARE TAKEN

- 15.1** Motion by Marilyn Moore, Seconded by Richard Herink
Yes: Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink
No: None
Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William “Bob” Wickersham
Motion Adopted

David Levy, President of the Board of Trustees thanked everyone for his or her participation, including Gail Potter and Bob Puschendorf. Richard Herink asked Bob Puschendorf to provide advice on the interpretive vision.

Break at 2:10 p.m. MDT
Reconvened at 2:20 p.m. MDT

16. PRESENTATION ON HISTORICAL MARKERS (Autumn Langemeier, Historical Marker Equity Coordinator)

Autumn Langemeier, Historical Marker Equity Coordinator, gave an updated presentation on Historical Markers.

17. DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Jill Dolberg, Interim CEO/Director)

Jill Dolberg, Interim CEO/Director, gave an updated presentation regarding the status and progress for History Nebraska.

18. MOTION TO APPROVE LIST OF DEACCESSIONS SUBMITTED BY THE COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE JULY BOARD MEETING

Motion by David Lopez, Second by Mark Goodman.

Yes: David Levy, David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Eileen Wirth, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus

No: None

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham

Motion Adopted

A short discussion ensued regarding meeting locations for 2023, such as the Winnebago Reservations and tour of the Susan La Flesche Picotte Hospital or Bellevue, being the oldest city in Nebraska. A riverboat launches from there and there can be a meeting and possibly a reception on the boat. Brownville, Valentine, Norfolk, Kearney, and South Sioux City were other ideas. Vickie Schaepler in Kearney would be a great host.

19. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL, CONTRACT NEGOTIATION, AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION

(3:01 p.m. MDT)

Motion by Mark Goodman, Second by Richard Herink

Yes: David Lopez, Marilyn Moore, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy

No: None

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham

Motion Adopted

20. MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

(4:14 p.m. MDT)

Motion by David Lopez, Seconded by Marilyn Moore

Yes: Marilyn Moore, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, Dave Lopez

No: None

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham, Eileen Wirth

Motion Adopted

21. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by David Lopez, Second by Sean Flowerday

Yes: Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, Dave Lopez, Marilyn Moore

No: None

Not Present: Galen Hadley, Jamesena Moore, Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman, Patricia Wagner, William "Bob" Wickersham, Eileen Wirth

Motion Adopted

Adjourn at 4:15 p.m. MDT