



**History Nebraska Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, October 14, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Revive Center
2402 Lizzie Robinson Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68111**

Minutes

Call to Order

David Levy, President of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He referenced the legal notice required by state statute was published on October 6, 2022, and that the meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call

Present: Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, Richard Herink, Tom Kraus, David Levy, David Lopez, Jamesena Moore, Marilyn Moore, Connie Spellman, Bob Wickersham, Eileen Wirth

Not Present: Chandra Diaz

Opportunity for Public Question and Comments (regarding agenda items only)

Gail Debusse Potter, attending as a member of the general public, voiced her concern that, in her opinion, History Nebraska is not following Nebraska Revised Statute 82-115. She suggested that the Board of Trustees stop the deaccession process until it can be clarified. Additionally, she gave each Board Member a handout with a list of “the most distressing objects” that had been deaccessioned from the Kennard House. Many of the objects to be deaccessioned on the October 14, 2022 list reside in the adobe at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and were of concern to her as well.

Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting on July 15, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2022

Motion by: David Lopez

Second by: Sean Flowerday

Yes: 12

No: 0

Motion adopted

Acceptance of Resignations for Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman and Patricia Wagner

Motion to accept the resignations of Pamela Snow, Connie Spellman and Patricia Wagner

Motion by: Mark Goodman

Second by: Marilyn Moore

Yes: 12

No: 0

Motion adopted

History Nebraska Foundation Report (Tyler Vacha, Executive Director)

Tyler Vacha reported on Quarter 1 highlights. This was a great fundraising quarter which included a \$875,000 ARPA grant and the raising of \$7,750 for the "Women: A Century of Change" exhibit. Tyler attended the Federal Legislative Summit, the "Women: A Century of Change" exhibit opening reception, the Grand Island Rehab Roadshow, and presented at the ARPA funds press conference. The HNF Ambassador program is growing with the addition of Jan McKenzie and Britni Summers. Vacha will be fundraising for the History Maker Campaign, Nebraska Historical Markers and the "American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith" exhibit. There is interest in collaborating with the Omaha Parks Foundation on an event in 2023.

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Report (Leslie Fattig, Executive Director, Nebraska State Historical Society)

Leslie Fattig thanked Interim Director Dolberg for presenting at their September 25th board meeting. All board members were given copies of the 2021-2022 NSHSF Annual Report as well as a publication titled "An 80-year History of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation." The newest project for the NSHSF is "Walk to the Rock." "Walk to the Rock" is developing four crushed rock trails south of the historic farmstead at Chimney Rock. So far \$1.3 million has been raised. In addition to the creation of the trails a \$1 million maintenance endowment will also be established.

Committee Report - Finance (Jamesena Moore - Treasurer)

Jamesena Moore presented the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions from the Board.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion by: Galen Hadley

Second by: Bob Wickersham

Yes: 12

No: 0

Motion adopted.

Committee Report - Nominating Committee (Marilyn Moore, Chair)

Marilyn Moore presented the results of the Board of Trustees Election:

Nicholas Walter, Lincoln - First Congressional District (ran unopposed)

Phillip Clement, Omaha - Second Congressional District (ran unopposed)

Arlan Wine, Wauneta - Third Congressional District (ran unopposed)

Motion to accept new History Nebraska Board of Trustees for January 2023.

Motion by: Marilyn Moore

Second by: Galen Hadley

Yes: 12

No: 0

Motion adopted.

The Board conducted a brief conversation regarding new Officers for 2023.

President: Jamesena Moore
1st Vice President: Sean Flowerday
2nd Vice President: Galen Hadley
Treasurer: Rich Herink

Motion to accept new History Nebraska Board of Trustees Officers for January 2023.

Motion by: Marilyn Moore
Second by: Mark Goodman
Yes: 12
No: 0

Motion adopted.

Marilyn mentioned that the “Heritage Heroes” applications and letters were being mailed out soon and invited everyone to stick around after the meeting to help stuff envelopes. This program is run every other year as it is too time consuming to do yearly.

BREAK

Time Out: 9:48

Time In: 10:09

Director’s Report (Jill Dolberg, Interim Director and CEO)

Interim Director Jill Dolberg discussed the 5 points of our Strategic Plan, our Organizational Goals for Fiscal Year 22-23, and the completion results of Leadership Rocks for Quarter 4. The financial results for Quarter 1 were 71% of our goal. Upcoming exhibits include “American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith” and “Righting a Wrong (Japanese Americans and WWII)”. A copy of The Nebraska Statewide Preservation Plan for 2022-2027 was handed out to all board members. The DEAI Committee has developed a 3-year plan with goals and priorities including a new Mission Statement. Updates on Punk Rock Projects were given. These included the WWII inspired dog obstacle course at Rickman Run Dog Park in Lincoln, Realtor training of tax credits, local landmarking and National Register listing was held in Omaha and the upcoming play “Not Too Far Distant” in collaboration with BLIXT which will hold performances in Omaha, Lincoln, and Ord. A discussion was held regarding updates on the Neligh Mill and the search for a Structural Engineer who can complete drawings before demolition is started.

Presentation on Ferguson House (Jill Dolberg, Interim Director and CEO)

Interim Director Jill Dolberg provided the board with the history of the Ferguson House and current photos. History Nebraska was approached in February of 2022 with an opportunity to take over the house along with an endowment fund to cover operating, administrative, maintenance, restoration and renovation expenses of the house and grounds. This issue was not brought to the board before now due to the timing of the previous Director’s resignation. A discussion was held as to what it could be used for and if it would be revenue positive. Would a change in statute be needed? Would this be directive or permissive? Consensus is to move slowly, ask questions and possibly form a committee to lead discussion with DAS.

Review, Discussion and Vote on Proposed Legislation

There was discussion regarding the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit Program which expires at the end of 2022. It was noted that some State Senators don't support tax credits of any kind. Last session, the bill to reauthorize the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit program was introduced but didn't move forward. The tax credit is a significant tool in the redevelopment of historic properties, and its loss will be to the state's detriment. There is concern that new legislation for a tax credit would likely be tied to credits for something else and we should be clear with our Lobbyist that if some sort of deal is to be made that any deal made is in line with the values of History Nebraska. Should we pursue this during the next Legislative session?

Motion to work with the History Nebraska Foundation's lobbyist to seek reauthorization of the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act in the 2023 session.

Motion by: Richard Herink

Second by: Galen Hadley

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted.

Administrative Issues

Deaccessions (Jill Dolberg, Interim Director and CEO)

Discussion regarding what happens with items that are deaccessioned? Do we have a process if something were to be sold? Interim Director Jill Dolberg explained that the expertise of the previous HN Director (T. Jones) was in active collecting while always asking the questions as to whether the item meets your mission and can someone else make better use of this item. He wanted only items that could be displayed and started the process of disposing of items. The Collection Committee is composed of experts and generates the list of potential items to deaccession. Is this current policy consistent with other great museums? Are we being overly aggressive? Director Dolberg added that she believes the American Alliance of Museums would want us to have intellectual control and climate control over what we own and we should be able to put our hands on an item if asked for it. Deaccessioning is a standard practice that all institutions should do. History Nebraska did not start this practice until 2016. President Levy said that the Governance Committee will review our current Deaccessions Policy and see what other museums do as part of that review.

Motion to approve the Deaccession Report with the exception of:

<u>Object ID</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Deaccession Reference Number</u>
4865-1	Gordon Alligator Printing Press, Patent 1851	2022_10.581

Motion by: Mark Goodman

Second by: Marilyn Moore

Yes: 9

No: 2

Motion adopted.

Executive Session - Personnel Issues

Motion to move into Executive Session.

Time: 12:08 p.m.

Motion by: David Lopez

Second by: Sean Flowerday

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion to move out of Executive Session.

Time: 12:36 p.m.

Motion by: Dave Lopez

Second by: Mark Goodman

Yes: 11

No: 0

Board decided by consensus to discuss appointing a search committee and engaging a search firm for the Executive Director Position at the April 2023 Board Meeting.

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2023 Board Meetings

January 13, Lincoln

April 7, South Sioux City / Picotte Hospital Tour (tentative)

July 14, Brownsville, Nebraska (tentative)

October 13, Omaha (tentative)

Annual Meeting - October 12, Omaha (tentative)

During discussion it was brought to attention that April 7th is Good Friday. President Levy suggested that we set only the dates for January, July and October and let Director Dolberg determine an April date that works well for staff.

Motion to approve January 13, July 14, and October 12 and October 13 meetings.

Motion by: Sean Flowerday

Second by: David Lopez

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted.

Other Business & Trustees Roundtable: Membership Update

President Levy noted that the letter from the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, dated August 15, 2022, referring to Nebraska Revised Statute 84-710 (Reissue 2014) states the following:

It shall be unlawful for any executive department, state institution, board, or officer acting under or by virtue of any statute or authority of the state . . . to receive any fees, proceeds from the sale of any public property, or any money belonging to the state or due for any service rendered by virtue of state authority without paying the same into the state treasury within three business days of the receipt thereof when the aggregate amount is five hundred dollars or more and

within seven days of the receipt thereof when the aggregate amount is less than five hundred dollars...

The provisions of this section and section 84-711 shall not apply to money received as proceeds of any fair, exposition, or exhibition held by any state board or society or of membership contributions to or receipts from miscellaneous sales by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Levy asserted that it appears, according to the auditor's interpretation, that History Nebraska may move membership contributions (membership fees) to the History Nebraska Foundation and determined that we should begin doing so.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by: Mark Goodman
Second by: Marilyn Moore
Yes: 11
No: 0

ADJOURNED AT: 12:47 p.m.

Attachment - Letter from the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, dated August 15, 2022