



**History Nebraska Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, January 13, 2023 - 9:00 AM**

**Nebraska History Museum - Gilmore Room
131 Centennial Mall N, Lincoln, Nebraska**

MINUTES

Call to Order

Jamesena Moore, President of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. She referenced that the legal notice required by state statute was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 3, 2023, and that the meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

President Moore thanked David Levy for serving as President for 2022, and extended a warm welcome to Philip Clement, Nick Walter and Arlan Wine, our new Board Members.

Roll Call

PRESENT - Philip Clement, Chandra Diaz, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Galen Hadley, David Levy, Jamesena Moore, Marilyn Moore, Nicholas Walter, Bob Wickersham, Arlan Wine

ABSENT - Richard Herink

Opportunity for Public Questions & Comments (regarding Agenda items only)

One member of the public asked a series of questions.

The Board was asked if this "Opportunity for Public Questions & Comments" segment could be moved towards the end of the meeting in order to bring up questions brought about during the meeting. After Board discussion, it was determined that no matter where in the agenda this section is placed some will be displeased. As a follow up question they then asked if they could ask questions after the deaccession presentation and again after the Director's Report. Board discussed and determined that allowing the public to comment on every motion is not feasible.

Motion to add an additional opportunity for the public to ask questions before moving into Executive Session.

Motion by: Mark Goodman

Second by: Sean Flowerday

Yes: 9

No: 2

Motion adopted

Approval of the Minutes from the October 22, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from October 22, 2022

Motion by: David Levy

Second by: Galen Hadley

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

History Nebraska Foundation Report (Tyler Vacha, Executive Director of the History Nebraska Foundation)

Tyler Vacha reported on Quarter 2 highlights. The HNF board is growing with the addition of Beth Kramer, Jeff Maul, Sean Solberg and Chandra Diaz DeBose. The two upcoming Smithsonian traveling exhibits, "American Democracy" and "Righting a Wrong" are both fully funded at \$55,000 and \$30,000 respectively. Current efforts include the raising of unrestricted funds for operations. The History Maker Campaign has also been newly created to raise operating funds for the foundation.

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

No report was given as Leslie Fattig was not in attendance.

Committee Report – Finance (Richard Herink - Treasurer)

Michelle Furby, History Nebraska Chief Financial Officer presented the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions from the Board.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report

Motion by: Sean Flowerday

Second by: Arlan Wine

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

Committee Report – Governance (Jamesena Moore - Chair)

Committee assignments have been given. There were no questions from the Board.

David Lopez has submitted his resignation due to his new position as Governor Pillen’s Chief of Staff. No action is needed as he was a Gubernatorial appointee. We are waiting to see who Governor Pillen appoints as the replacement for David Lopez and we will welcome them at that time.

Listed on the agenda was the appointment of Chandra Diaz-DeBose and Sean Flowerday to the board of the History Nebraska Foundation. President Moore requested the board’s permission that both be placed together as one motion.

Motion to appoint both Chandra Diaz-DeBose and Sean Flowerday to the History Nebraska Foundation board.

Motion by: Mark Goodman

Second by: David Levy

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion adopted

Presentation on Deaccessions (Sondra Reiersen, Director of Collections, History Nebraska)

David Levy introduced Sondra Reiersen and explained she gave a presentation at the December 9, 2022 Governance Meeting. She was asked to repeat the presentation for the Board.

Highlights of Sondra’s presentation:

- Within 30 years we went from one museum to 27 buildings that needed staging so all donations were accepted.
- Large numbers of props were purchased to furnish these structures and were labeled as part of the permanent collection. If we were to do this today we would label these as “education and use” items.
- Permanent collection items are relevant to our mission and require long term preservation. Education and Use items consist of items that have limited relevance to our mission, duplicates, period appropriate props, teaching tools and expected deterioration due to use and or climate conditions,
- Active Collections is the model that guides our work and includes targeting and refinement. Targeted collecting are items that fill gaps in our existing holdings that deserve our time and attention. Refinement is getting rid of items we don’t need. The time and money required to catalog, hold and store our collections should be spent thoughtfully. We can’t collect and preserve what we have indefinitely without periodically reviewing what we have.
- One of the means of refining is deaccession. Deaccession is defined as “the thoughtful, deliberate and official removal of items that have been accessioned”.
- History Nebraska first deaccessioned items in the 1930’s. A large-scale deaccession of 20,000 library titles occurred in the mid-1980’s.
- As of 1994, all money resulting from deaccessioned items has gone into the Collections Trust Fund. This money is used exclusively for the acquisition, preservation or the restoration of the society collection. This is in keeping with ethical standards across the field and is a requirement for accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums.

- The deaccession process:
 - Process starts with the Curator who reviews looking at relevance, condition, provenance and duplication.
 - Next it goes to the Collections Committee who reviews, discusses and votes.
 - Lastly it goes to the History Nebraska Board of Trustees who makes the ultimate decision.
- Disposition methods of deaccessioned items can be by internal or external transfer, sale or destruction. All items for sale must be by public auction. It is always preferable to transfer items.

Heritage Heroes Update (Marilyn Moore)

Heritage Heroes was developed by this board 5 years ago and this is the third time running the program. This is a great way to celebrate the good work done by local historians. We received 21 submissions and 25 people were nominated. David Levy thanked Marilyn for all her hard work on this project.

BREAK

Time Out: 10:25 a.m. **Time In:** 10:35 a.m.

Ferguson House Q&A (Michelle Potts, Administrator for the State Building Division, Dept of Administrative Services)

The State Building Division manages all state property in some aspect and is responsible for over 270 buildings across the state. Sometimes we have unique pieces of property that we are not qualified to take care of such as the Ferguson House. According to state statute the State Building Division is not allowed to sell the Ferguson House. Currently the Nebraska Environmental Trust is running the property and has given notice to vacate the property by July 2023. If HN is interested, conversations could start about changing state statutes and transferring to HN.

A question was asked about the cost of running and maintaining this building including deferred maintenance. Potts indicated that she could supply exact numbers regarding maintenance costs, utility costs and potential income before the next board meeting.

History Nebraska is not currently allowed to rent space. If we wanted to do this, a state statute change would be required.

An independent assessment of the property will be done of the property with the cost possibly split between HN and DAS.

Jill Dolberg added that there is historical value, architectural interest, statewide significance and the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Director’s Report (Jill Dolberg, Interim Director & CEO, History Nebraska)

Interim Director Jill Dolberg informed the board that as of January we have adopted our 5th Value which is “Inclusion”. Major planned projects are seeing some setbacks. These projects include the teaching kitchen, Grow Nebraska exhibit, Kennard House, Neligh Mill and Ford Center. Our AAM re-accreditation is ongoing with a site visit scheduled for February. The History Nebraska license plate is available now. Some of the Leadership goals for Q3 include the hiring of a DEAI Projects Coordinator, development of education programming at the Ford Center, and priorities for allocating remaining biennial funds. The Rural Nebraska Historic Preservation Grant runs from December to March and currently has 36 registered for the program. The NHTC sunset on December 31, 2022 and we have allocated \$17.8 million in projects for 2022. A new round of Equity Historic Marker Program applications begin in March. The Nebraska History Museum is closed for the month of January in order to deep clean and take down and set up new exhibits. Upcoming exhibits include “American Democracy” from February 8 until May 21 and “Righting a Wrong” from April 22 until July 2.

Neligh Mill Update (Jill Dolberg)

The board previously voted to remove the Neigh Mill elevators due to rot, damage and collapsed beams. The cost to repair is estimated at \$1 million. Even if repaired it still would not be safe enough to allow people to walk around. A Structural Engineer has been hired and created drawings for historical documentation. The original bid for demolition was from a year ago and therefore out of date so we will start the bid process again. For clarification, the mill will stay with only the elevators being demolished.

Report on Legislative Efforts (David Levy)

During the October 2022 meeting it was decided that this board would work on drafting a bill to reinstate the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit (NHTC). Senator Julie Slama has introduced a similar bill (LB213) which would increase the date from 2022 to 2026 but only apply to cities and villages of less than 5,000 population. This bill gives us an opportunity to work together and possibly broaden this bill. If not, we can introduce our own bill.

Administrative Issues (Sondra Reiersen)

We have five minor changes across three of our policies. See document titled “History Nebraska policy changes for Board of Trustees consideration”.

- Update the title of the “Collections Policy” to become the “Collection Management Policy” to match the AAM standard. This name change would be adjusted throughout the policy and in other procedural documents.

Motion to update the Collection Management Policy (CMP) as described

Motion by: Bob Wickersham

Second by: Sean Flowerday

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

- Adding an Inventory Policy to the Collections Policy. Prompted by AAM re-accreditation.

Motion to update the Collection Management Policy (CMP) as described

Motion by: Bob Wickersham

Second by: Sean Flowerday

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

- Update the Collection Management Policy (CMP) “Conflict of Interest” section to match the language of the “Obligations” section of the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics language will be copied to the Collections Management Policy. Prompted by AAM re-accreditation.

Motion to update the Collections Management Policy to match the Code of Ethics

Motion by: Mark Goodman

Second by: David Levy

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

- Update the Code of Ethics to match the language of the Collection Management Policy (CMP) statement on the use of proceeds from deaccessioning. The Collection Management Policy language will be copied to the Code of Ethics. Prompted by AAM re-accreditation.

Motion to update the Code of Ethics to match the Collections Management Policy

Motion by: David Levy

Second by: Sean Flowerday

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

- Update Strategic Plan to include a timeframe. Prompted by AAM re-accreditation.

Motion to update the Strategic Plan adding an end date of September 30, 2028

Motion by: Sean Flowerday

Second by: David Levy

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

The Gordon Alligator printing press (Deaccession Reference 2022_10.581) was on the January 2023 deaccession list. The Board decided to defer and request further information. This item has been on display at the International Printing Museum in California for the past 25 years. Upon transfer they have agreed to give us the right of first refusal and loan priority.

Motion to deaccession the Gordon Alligator Printing Press in accordance with the terms of the proposal

Motion by: Bob Wickersham

Second by: Galen Hadley

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

Other Business & Trustees Roundtable (Jamesena Moore)

Appointment of Ben Gray to Board of Trustees to fill the remaining term of Connie Spellman who resigned in October of 2022. You have a copy of Ben's biographical information in your packet.

Motion to appoint Ben Gray to the Board of Trustees

Motion by: Bob Wickersham

Second by: Chandra Diaz-DeBose

Yes: 11

No: 0

Motion adopted

Bob Wickersham provided information on a proposed bill that would set aside funds for creating an exhibit space on the 5th Floor of the Capitol. There is the possibility History Nebraska may be asked to be involved.

Sean Flowerday left the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Opportunity for Public Questions & Comments, Part 2

The Board was asked if the public could receive copies of the presentation on deaccessions, Director's Report and Neligh Mill. The Board indicated that these are public records. A notice must be given in writing to request copies. This request may be addressed to the Executive Director and there may be a nominal fee.

Concerns were expressed about turning deaccessioned items over to state surplus for sale and a potential conflict of interest with employees purchasing these items. President Moore stated that it is the staff's responsibility to know that we cannot purchase items. Follow up question: If after 25 years post employment is that person still considered an employee? Answer was that after that length of time they would be considered a public member and not an employee.

Executive Session

Motion to move into Executive Session

Motion by: David Levy

Second by: Marilyn Moore

Yes: 10

No: 0

Motion adopted

TIME OUT: 12:21 p.m.

Motion to move out of Executive Session

Motion by: Galen Hadley

Second by: Nick Walter

Yes: 10

No: 0

Motion adopted

TIME IN: 1:04 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Mark Goodman

Second by: David Levy

Yes: 10

No: 0

Motion adopted

MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:05 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lezlee Williams, Executive Assistant
History Nebraska

**Approved by Board of Trustees
April 14, 2023**