

History Nebraska Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, April 14, 2023 - 9:00 AM

York Auditorium - North Dining Room
612 N Nebraska Avenue, York, Nebraska 68467

MINUTES

Call to Order

Jamesena Moore, President of the History Nebraska Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 9:09 am. She referenced that the legal notice required by state statute was published in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on April 6, 2023, and the *York News-Times* on April 12, 2023. The meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

President Moore introduced Leslie Fattig, Gail DeBuse Potter, and Carolyn Hove from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and Tyler Vacha who is the Executive Director of the History Nebraska Foundation. A warm welcome was extended to Ben Gray and Jack Berg, our new Board Members. Roger Lempke from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation was also in attendance but arrived after introductions were made. The History Nebraska mission was read and Moore asked us to be mindful of this mission during our meeting today.

Roll Call

PRESENT - Jack Berg, Philip Clement, Sean Flowerday, Mark Goodman, Ben Gray, Galen Hadley, Richard Herink, Jamesena Moore, Marilyn Moore, Nicholas Walter, Bob Wickersham, Arlan Wine

ABSENT - Chandra Diaz, David Levy

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

Gail DeBuse Potter stated that she was not commenting as the President of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation but as a private member of the Nebraska State Historical Society and former employee of 25 years.

Potter stated her concerns regarding the History Nebraska deaccession process and stated her opinion that we are out of compliance with Nebraska State Statute 82-115. She had requested the selling price for each specific item that had been sold by State Surplus and was told by both History Nebraska and State Surplus that this information is not available. She is requesting that the deaccession process be halted until a review can be conducted and that a private company that is familiar with historical material be used in the future. This would require state legislative changes. She also asked that the Kennard House be put back together by being furnished with authentic period pieces. She would also like to see the original back wing restored which was demolished in 1923.

Approval of the Minutes from the January 13, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 13, 2023.

Motion by: GOODMAN

Second by: FLOWERDAY

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, HADLEY, HERINK, J. MOORE, M. MOORE,
WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: GRAY

Motion adopted

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

Tyler Vacha reported on Quarter 3 highlights. The History Nebraska Foundation to date has provided \$13,000 for the "Righting a Wrong" exhibit and \$8,000 for the American Democracy exhibit. Upcoming events during this quarter include the Legislative Luncheon, "Give to Lincoln Day", the rededication event for Omaha's Memorial Park, and a potential History Nebraska Foundation fundraising event on June 2. History Nebraska has been charged with overseeing America's Semiquincentennial celebration for the State of Nebraska. The History Nebraska Foundation will be helping with fundraising for the Nebraska Semiquincentennial Commission.

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

Leslie Fattig reported on their recent projects that the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is funding. These include their travel program, "Wander Nebraska", which includes 154 historical sites. They are awarding \$50,000 in grants to help small-town historic sites fund their projects throughout Nebraska. The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation has raised \$860,000 for the Pershing Auditorium Mural Project. Financial statements were handed out to the Board and were described by Fattig. Included was a description of grant funds that NSHSF holds in trust for History Nebraska. These financial statements prompted a discussion between Fattig and various Board Members.

Committee Report – Finance (Richard Herink - Treasurer)

Michelle Furby, History Nebraska Chief Financial Officer presented the Treasurer's Report. Wickersham asked how we saved \$2,000,000. Furby explained that we have many vacancies right now and last year's appropriation was carried over. Furby budgets for 90 job positions and we currently have 68 on payroll. This number does increase during the tourist season. This budgeted money was not spent. Furby reported that Earned Revenue is down with Quarters 2 and 3 historically the lowest each year. She attributes some of this to the Nebraska History Museum being closed for the month of January and the ongoing Ford Center renovation project which has closed the labs which is a large funding source.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report

Motion by M. MOORE

Second by GOODMAN

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK, J. MOORE, M. MOORE, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

Committee Report – Governance (Jamesena Moore - Chair)

Motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee that took place on March 6, 2023

Motion by: M. MOORE

Second by: GRAY

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HERINK, J. MOORE, M. MOORE, WALTER, WINE

Nays: NONE

Abstain: HADLEY, WICKERSHAM

Motion adopted

Heritage Heroes Update (Marilyn Moore)

Marilyn provided an overview of the Heritage Heroes program for our new members. This program is very meaningful to both those being honored and their communities. This year we received 26 nominations covering 21 organizations. Mark Goodman recently has presented awards to 3 people in Northeast Nebraska and shared his experiences. Marilyn presented an award to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and learned of the great work being done there. A request was made to board members to participate by presenting awards to those yet to be done.

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

Interim Director Dolberg shared a few of the Leadership Team's Quarter 3 Rocks such as prioritizing vacant job positions and hiring goals, the return on investment of our marketing efforts and the examination of our Earned Revenue for this fiscal year and recommended adjustments, if required. In February the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) conducted their onsite visit as part of the re-accreditation process. The reviewers were most impressed with our digital education program, active collecting process, and Heritage Heroes program. Concerns were expressed in the areas of staff turnover and the lack of long-term development plans for exhibits. AAM should reach a final decision in June of 2023. Dolberg provided some updates regarding current legislative bills including the possible revival of the historic tax credit program and renovations to Fort Robinson and Mayhew Cabin. The Ford Center construction project is finally complete, which originally began as a small masonry project and expanded into a 4-year project with costs far exceeding the original estimates. The Ford Center project was funded using 309 Funds. We have received 52 applications across 33 counties for the Rural Nebraska Historic Preservation Grant. The scoring committee meets on April 26 to make their final selections of 10 receiving between \$10,000 and \$75,000 each.

BREAK

Time Out 10:37 a.m. Time In: 10:56 a.m.

Request Regarding Courthouse Rock and Jail Rock - Action

A request was previously made by private citizen Jack Berg to install lighting at Courthouse Rock and Jail Rock. Mr. Berg was subsequently appointed to the History Nebraska Board of Trustees by Governor Pillen on April 12, 2023. The cost to install this lighting will be at no cost to the state. Courthouse Rock and Jail Rock were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and the Nebraska State Historical Society (History Nebraska) has owned this site since 1976. Discussion ensued around the least invasive way to provide lighting and not potentially destroy remains of the only known Apache site in Nebraska. Archeologists have found ancient homes, campsites, stone tools, and other cultural artifacts from 45 centimeters below the surface to the surface that people have lived in this area for 13,000 years. Today's guest speaker, Nebraska State Archeologist Dave Williams, offered his expertise by stating that if the boring was done below 3 feet it would be much less invasive to the land.

Of concern was who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and security issues. Jack Berg stated that the Morrill County Sheriff's Office will provide 24/7 security. It was suggested that an agreement be made with Morrill County in the event Morrill County no longer wishes to maintain this area.

Motion to allow the lighting of Courthouse Rock and Jail Rock, but it must be above-ground lighting that is not intrusive to and will not do any damage to the archeological sites. Motion amended to History Nebraska approves the lines being run through boring, conditional upon approval from the State Archeologist's Office after testing to determine the depth appropriate to avoid archeological remains and fulfilling the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the State Archeology Law given the property's National Register status.

Motion by: FLOWERDAY

Second by: WICKERSHAM

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HERINK, J. MOORE, M. MOORE,
WALTER, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

11:35 - Marilyn Moore left the meeting

Request Regarding Walk to the Rock - Action

A request was made by Leslie Fattig, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Executive Director to connect their walking trail project to the Abbott Visitor's Center and parking lot, which is owned by History Nebraska.

Motion to authorize the Board of Trustees President to enter into an agreement with the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation on such terms as she may determine for access to the trails being proposed by the Foundation connecting their property to our property at the Abbott Visitor's Center and/or its parking lot and that the agreement exclusively have a contingency provision concerning the expansion of the parking lot if that is deemed necessary by History Nebraska at some point in the future due to increased use of the parking lot by visitors of the Foundation's trails, and that parking lot expansion will be funded at the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's cost.

Motion by: WICKERSHAM

Second by: GOODMAN

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK, J. MOORE,
WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

**Presentation on the search for the Genoa Indian Industrial School cemetery
(Dave Williams, Nebraska State Archeologist)**

Administrative Issues - Action

Motion to approve the deaccession list that we have received.

Motion by: GOODMAN

Second by: GRAY

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK,
J. MOORE, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

Other Business & Trustees Roundtable (Jamesena Moore)

- Review of Board Self Evaluation
- Executive Director Search
- Relationship with Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

Executive Session - *Action*

- For personnel and legal matters

Motion to move the Board into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters

Motion by: WALTER

Second by: GOODMAN

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK,
J. MOORE, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

TIME IN - 12:53 pm

Motion to move the Board out of Executive Session.

Motion by: HERINK

Second by: GRAY

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK,
J. MOORE, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

TIME OUT - 1:48 pm

Motion to authorize the Board President to appoint two Board Members to serve on a committee to negotiate with the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation in developing a Memorandum of Agreement on how the organizations will operate collaboratively.

Motion by: GRAY

Second by: WALTER

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK,
J. MOORE, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

Motion to authorize the Board President to appoint six Committee Members to an Executive Director Search Committee and to refine applicants down to two for an interview. Total expenses not to exceed \$60,000.

Motion by: GRAY

Second by: WALTER

Yeas: BERG, CLEMENT, FLOWERDAY, GOODMAN, GRAY, HADLEY, HERINK,
J. MOORE, WALTER, WICKERSHAM, WINE

Nays: NONE

Motion adopted

MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:56 pm

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Dolberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

Jill Dolberg, Secretary
History Nebraska

Approved by the History Nebraska Board of Trustees

July 14, 2023