



Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee
History Nebraska, Capitol View Room and by Zoom
1500 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508
April 6, 2023 - 1:30 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ron Hull at 1:33 PM

Notice to the Press

The meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on March 28, 2023

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

The meeting was in compliance

Roll Call

PRESENT - Littleton Alston, Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Timothy Heller, Ron Hull,
Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt, Ruth Haley Keene, Ashley Olson, Mike Zeleny
ABSENT - Katie Brossy, Jill Dolberg

Review of Minutes from the February 9, 2023 Meeting

Motion to approve February 9, 2023 minutes.

Motion by: Sara Crook

Second: Jim McKee

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Timothy Heller, Ron Hull, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Motion adopted

Summary of Responsibilities

- **National Anthem** - Speaker's Office
- **Presentation of Colors** - Speaker's Office
- **State Delegation Remarks** - Congressman Adrian Smith, Senator Deb Fisher, Governor Pillen
- **Leadership Remarks** - Speaker of the House and Speaker of the Senate
- **Unveiling of Statue** - Abby Camp (Daughter of Laurie Smith Camp) and Jim Southwick (Cather's Grandnephew)
- **Invocation and Benediction** - Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
- **Reading of Passage** - Former First Lady, Mrs. Laura Bush; Lora Black (alternate speaker)
 - Mrs Laura Bush's expenses to be covered by The Willa Cather Foundation

Sub-Committee for the Reception

- **Medallion Boxes Update**

Sara Crook provided the update that to match the look of the Standing Bear medallion boxes, a darkening agent needs to be applied at an additional cost of 50 cents per box. We looked at the budget and given the leeway in the previous motion the decision was made to approve the darkening at the stated extra cost.

- **Reception Program Update**

Ashley Olson provided the update that the draft is ready to print as soon as a few missing pieces are received.

- Mike Zeleny will send Ashley the University of Nebraska description and photo.

- **Reception Remarks Update**

Sara Crook provided this update:

Drafts Received - Ron Hull, Littleton Alston, Jill Dolberg and Andy Jewell.

Drafts Expected Soon - Senator Burke Haar and Ashley Olson

Drafts Not Received - Chancellor Ronnie Green of the University of Nebraska as it is uncertain if he will be in this position at the time of the event. As soon as the new Chancellor is named, Mike Zeleny will work to get this event on their schedule. Because this is important to Chancellor Green he would like to be involved even if another Chancellor is named before the induction.

Sub-Committee for the Invitation List

- Aaron Wyatt has coordinated with Ashley Olson, Mike Zeleny and Littleton Alston and requested that each prioritize their respective invitation lists.
- Aaron has asked Jill Dolberg to update the History Nebraska associated names that need to be included.
- Invites to be distributed with each of the following receiving a certain percentage: Willa Cather Selection Committee Commission, University of Nebraska, The Willa Cather Foundation and Littleton Alston. Planning for 100-125, we should be able to accommodate most first priority list invitees. If we get a larger hall we can extend past the first priority list.
- The list now has 609 names. This includes 98 Nebraska Senators including a plus one. One-sixth of the list is the Nebraska Legislature.
- The Speaker's Office will send out invites to all Members of Congress and once they've RSVP'd, we will then know how many we can invite from our lists. We will send the Speaker's Office a spreadsheet with all of our names, in priority order, and they will send out invites to so many. Once they have a number attending from that batch sent, they will send out more invitations and so on until full or the list is exhausted.

Media to Invite

- Christine Lesiak, who is a Producer with Nebraska Public Media plus two assistants.
- Omaha World Herald, Lincoln Journal Star, New York Times and the Washington Post.
- Producer from Channel 7 in Washington DC (WJLA) who has previously interviewed Littleton Alston. Littleton will provide contact information.
- Producer from Washington DC PBS station (WETA). Littleton will provide contact information.
- Mrs. Sharon Rockefeller from Washington DC PBS station, WETA.
- Press Release to be written by and released from History Nebraska.

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Tim Heller

Second by: Rod Bates

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Timothy Heller, Ron Hull, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Motion adopted

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05 pm

Submitted by:
Jill Dolberg, Secretary
History Nebraska

**Approved by Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee
May 4, 2023**