



Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee
History Nebraska, Capitol View Room and by Zoom
1500 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508
May 4, 2023 - 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Dr. Sara Crook, at 3:05 PM

Notice to the Press

The meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on May 3, 2023

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

The meeting was in compliance

Roll Call

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

Election of a Willa Cather National Selection Committee Chair

Motion to approve Dr Sara Crook as Committee Chair by acclamation.

Motion by: Tim Heller

Second: Aaron Wyatt

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Jill Dolberg, Timothy Heller, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Motion adopted

Review of Minutes from the April 6, 2023 Meeting

Motion to approve April 6, 2023 minutes

Motion by: Rod Bates

Second: Jim McKee

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Jill Dolberg, Timothy Heller, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Motion adopted

Tentative June 7, 2023 Dedication Date

Discussion regarding who can attend on this date. Jim McKee and Aaron Wyatt would not be able to attend on this date.

Motion to accept the June 7, 2023 dedication date in Washington D.C..

Discussion

Friendly Amendment to the original motion to support the June 7, 2023 dedication date or any subsequent date that the Speakers' Office extends to us.

Motion by: Jim McKee

Second: Jill Dolberg

Yes: Rod Bates, Sara Crook, Jill Dolberg, Timothy Heller, Jim McKee, Aaron Wyatt

Motion adopted

Statue Installation

Weekend prior to event

Willa Cather Foundation Event (Evening Prior)

- Business Attire
- Brief Program
- Casual Event
- Late afternoon event (5:00 to 7:00 pm)

Dedication Event

- We are expecting the dedication to be in Emancipation Hall.
- Proposed time on June 7 is 11:00 am
- It was decided that Sara will Emcee this event in place of Ron Hull. Rod Bates will be her back-up, if needed. She will use Ron's previously written remarks as much as possible.
- Speakers offering remarks at event:
 - Littleton Alson - 3 to 5 minutes
 - Andy Jewell - 3 to 5 minutes
 - Chancellor Green
 - Ashley Olson
- Speakers Office will extend the invitations to the following who will also provide remarks:
 - Senator Deb Fisher
 - Governor Jim Pillen
 - One House Member

Reception Following Event

- The Congressional Atrium is an adjoining room which holds approximately 200 people. There is another possible room for us to use that is not adjoining but is within walking distance.
- The reception will follow immediately after the dedication.
- Speaking at Reception
 - Chancellor Ronnie Green
 - Ashley Olson
 - Jill Dolberg
 - Sara Crook
 - Senator Burke Harr
- Medallions will be given out at Reception.
- Books will be placed on tables as centerpieces (instead of flowers). These books will then be given out to anyone who wants one.
- Flowers will be needed for the name table and food tables. Must be arranged with the Capitol.
- Can we borrow the Cather maquette from Senator Deb Fisher's office instead of bringing one from Nebraska for reception?
- Program - The following will be thanked in a brief paragraph:
 - History Nebraska
 - Littleton Alston
 - University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 - The Willa Cather Foundation

Invitations to be Sent

- We will send out our own preliminary emails requesting RSVPs for all events: The Willa Cather Foundation Reception the evening before, the Dedication Event and the both the Reception the night before as well as the Dedication ceremony. This will help to determine the final invitation list.

Summary of Responsibilities

- **Aaron**
 - Draft and share our invitation.
 - Work with Ashley and Mike on drafting, sending and tracking our RSVPs.
- **Ashley**
 - Reach out to Abby Camp and Jim Southwick.
 - Send remarks to Sara.
 - Continue to remain in contact with Former First Lady Laura Bush.
 - Work with Aaron and Mike on drafting, sending and tracking our RSVPs.
- **Mike**
 - Send remarks to Sara.
 - Work with Ashley and Aaron on drafting, sending and tracking our RSVPs.
- **Sara**
 - Send all remarks to the group to check for duplicates or common themes or quotes.
- **Tim**
 - Contact Bishop Michael Curry and Lora Black.

- **Lezlee**

- Locate contact information for Bishop Michael Curry and Lora Black and forward to Tim.

Meeting Adjourned by acclamation at 4:26 pm

Submitted by:
Jill Dolberg, Secretary
History Nebraska

Approved by Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee
May 24, 2023