



Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee
History Nebraska, Capitol View Room and by Zoom
1500 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508
May 17, 2023 - 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Sara Crook at 12:02 PM

Notice to the Press

The meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on May 15, 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 Alston, Katie Brossy, Ruth Haley Keene, Ashley Olson, Mike Zeleny

Subcommittee for the Invitation List

- Aaron Wyatt has emailed the RSVPs and 107 have been received to date. No response so far from Tim Heller, Rod Bates' wife, Bishop Curry and the President of Creighton University. Aaron will check the list again and begin to personally contact those who are on the priority invitation list.
- Mike Zeleny will contact the Rector of St. Mark's on the Campus, Rev. Dr. Robert Magoola to see if he can assist in contacting Bishop Michael Curry. Approximately 100 of the email invitations sent to the University of Nebraska ended up in spam folders. Mike Zeleny is working on alerting those affected.
- Katie Brossy met with the Speaker's Office and the Architect of the Capitol. They have requested that we send them 180 names so they can provide event tickets. The maximum space is 250-300 people.
- Katie Brossy sent RSVPs and the master list to the staff of Nebraska delegates: Senators Fischer and Ricketts; Representatives Bacon, Flood and Smith.
- RSVPs are due end of day tomorrow (May 18). We will provide a supplemental list closer to the event date.

Aaron Wyatt left the meeting at 12:08 PM

Subcommittee for the Dedication Ceremony

- Katie Brossy circulated the program via email. The Speaker's Office is open to incorporating unique elements.
- Lora Black will read a 5 minute passage from "My Antonia". Sara will contact Lora Black to confirm. Lora Black is the alternate for Former First Lady Laura Bush who is unavailable.
- Senator Deb Fischer and Representative Adrian Smith will speak at the dedication. Senator Fischer will be allowed extra time at the reception if she desires.
 - The rest of the Nebraska Delegation will be invited to speak, as well. Katie will help with outreach and provide contact information.
 - Because there are two receptions, they can speak at either one.
- The Willa Cather Foundation is covering the cost for the Omaha Conservatory Quartet to fly in for their reception on June 6. Our first choice for music is the Duke Ellington School of Arts Gospel Choir located in Washington D.C. with the Omaha Conservatory Quartet as backup. Jill Dolberg will check on current balance from the Laurie Smith Camp donation to see if there are sufficient funds to cover expenses. Littleton Alston will contact the Duke Ellington School of Arts Gospel Choir to check on their interest and availability. This decision needs to be made no later than May 27th.
 - Possible performers:
 - Duke Ellington School of Arts Gospel Choir
 - Omaha Conservatory Quartet (back up)
- Everyone on the stage will participate in pulling the rope to reveal the statue. This occurs early on in the ceremony. The committee may request others join them on stage to pull the rope.
 - Littleton Alston
 - Great Nephew of Willa Cather
 - Abby Camp, daughter of Laurie Smith Camp
- A recording of the Dedication Ceremony will be made by C-SPAN and the Speaker's Office.

Subcommittee for the Reception

- **Boxed Medallions**
 - Washington D.C. - One for each attending plus Nebraska Delegation and staff.
 - Lincoln Watch Party
 - State Senators - Send one to each who voted for the statue bill.
 - Remaining - Distributed between The Willa Cather Foundation, History Nebraska, Littleton Alston and Governor Pillen's office.
- **Reception Location - *Russell Senate Office Building, Room 301***
 - Reception immediately following event.
 - This room is reserved from 9:00 to 3:00 so we could set up a screen and livestream for overflow, if needed.
 - Room capacity is 170-250.
 - 90 books will be available on tables as centerpieces and takeaways for guests.
 - UNL will print name tags.
 - We will borrow Senator Fischer's maquette for both receptions.

- **Reception Booklet**
 - Contains a full page memorial to Judge Laurie Smith Camp.
 - Compact the list of “Thank Yous” on the last page to make room for a memorial with a photo for Ron Hull.

Motion to authorize Littleton Alston and Katie Brossy to sign documents to transfer ownership of the statue to the U.S. Capitol Building

Motion by: Jim McKee

Second by: Timothy Heller

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

Motion adopted

Arrival of Statue

- Statue and pedestal will arrive after 4:30 PM on June 5th and more extensive rigging will be required.
- The Willa Cather statue may be close to where the Standing Bear statue is located.
- The Morton statue will go out that night in the crates. This statue is located elsewhere in the building so this may need to be moved twice. If so, they will cover the cost of the additional transfer.

Miscellaneous

- The members of the press attending don't need to be included on the guest list, but this information needs to be shared with the Speaker's Office Press Coordinator to receive passes.
 - Regional Press Attending:
 - Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper
 - Omaha World Herald Newspaper
 - Nebraska Examiner Newspaper
 - Nebraska Life Magazine (tentative)
 - Red Cloud Chief Newspaper (tentative)
- Nebraska Public Media has decided not to send anyone. Katie will contact them after the event and supply any needed information.
- The event press release will be posted to the Speaker's Office website located here: <https://www.speaker.gov/>
- Chris Goforth from History Nebraska has been in contact with the Willa Cather Foundation's press agent. They will work together to draft a press release. This will not be released until the Speaker's official invitations are sent.
- The Architect of the U.S. Capitol will capture photos and video of the arrival of the statue both inside and outside of the building and will share with us.

- ***The Willa Cather Foundation Soiree, June 6th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM***
The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)
1000 F Street NW, 2nd Floor
- ***Nebraska Breakfast, June 7th from 8:00 to 9:00 AM***
Russell Senate Office Building, Kennedy Caucus Room

Representative Don Bacon and Representative Adrian Smith will be giving remarks on this day. RSVP is required. Katie Brossy supplied our names to add to the list.

- Seating in Statuary Hall opens at 10:15 and is first come, first seated.

Meeting Adjourned by acclamation at 1:20 PM

Submitted by:
Jill Dolberg, Secretary
History Nebraska

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