



Semiquincentennial Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

History Nebraska - Capitol View Room, 1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508  
In Person and by Zoom

---

## **MINUTES**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 by Jill Dolberg, Interim Director of History Nebraska. She referenced that the legal notice required by state statute was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on June 17, 2023, and that the meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

### **Roll Call**

PRESENT: Jeff Barnes, Candace Cain, Jill Dolberg, Gwen Easter, Heath Mello

ABSENT: Don Arp II, Christina Castro-Matukewicz, Roy Christensen, Tyeisha Kosmicki, Deb Loseke, Lori Shaal

LATE ARRIVAL: Marisa Payzant (1:30 pm)

### **Approval of the Minutes from the March 23, 2023 Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023 meeting.

Motion: CAIN

Second: BARNES

Yeas: BARNES, CAIN, DOLBERG, EASTER, MELLO

Nays - NONE

**Motion adopted**

### **Opportunity for Public Questions & Comments**

No public present.

### **Committee Discussion and Updates**

Jill was invited to participate in a study by the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) about how various states are preparing for America250. One of the common themes across states was the Catch-22 of not knowing how big to plan when we do not know how much money we'll have to spend, vis a vis how much money to ask for when you do not have a plan. Some other states are receiving money through legislative efforts.

In our previous meetings, we discussed whether or not we should join the National Semiquincentennial organization. If we join we will receive \$10,000 seed money to get started. As of this date, no money has been raised by this commission.

Governor Pillen has been informed that we still have 5 positions to fill on this commission.

Committees are as follows:

**Community Relations:** ARP, BARNES, CAIN, EASTER, KOSMICKI

**Education:** CAIN, DOLBERG, EASTER, MELLO, PAYZANT

**Finance:** CASTRO-MANTUKEWICZ, DOLBERG, SHAAL

**Fundraising:** CHRISTENSEN, KOSMICKI, SCHAAL, TYLER VACHA (History Nebraska Foundation)

**Social Media:** ARP, CASTRO-MANTUKEWICZ, LOESKE

Roy Christensen was not in attendance but reported that Senator Erdman has agreed to sponsor a bill of support this next session. Christensen has left messages with Sandhills Publishing and WarHorse Casino and intends to request donations.

Fundraising suggestions offered by the group:

- Hire a professional fundraising and development person to facilitate this process
- Apply for grants and assistance from state agencies. These suggestions were presented:
  - Nebraska Arts Council
  - Humanities Nebraska
  - Nebraska Department of Economic Development
  - Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

AASLH suggestions offered:

- Small Community Grants: If we decide to provide any, we should develop a framework including what information we will ask from applicants and how we plan to evaluate proposals presented from communities and towns throughout Nebraska. This could be helpful to show to potential funding sources.
- If we develop programming, they suggested that it be general so that any community can use the framework and run it themselves.

Discussion regarding ideas considered in previous meetings and which committee will take these on.

A suggestion was made that the word “student” be removed from the writing contest so that all ages can participate.

Marisa Payzant joined the meeting virtually at 1:30

Individual committees will meet and report back to the Commission prior to the next meeting which will be towards the end of August.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:41.**

Submitted by:

Jill Dolberg, Interim Director of History Nebraska

Approved by the Semiquincentennial Commission  
August 23, 2023