

## Nemaha County Historical Society

Quarterly Meeting August 8, 2017

The Nemaha County Board of Directors gathered at Burger Annex I at 5:00 pm on August 8, 2017 to hear project presenters prior to the quarterly business meeting. Directors in attendance were DarlAnn Rial, Alma Ackerman, Marlene Geysler, Robert Ackerman, Freda Dobbins, Greg Newlin, Karen Holthaus, Joyce Olberding, Ray Thieme and Patty Byers. Melvin Baker arrived at 8:00 p.m. and left at 8:30 p.m. Also in attendance were Director Diane Rottinghaus, Rodney Brown, Bancroft Preservation Association Board President and his brother Roger Brown.

Carpenter Report: Dick Miller presented his plan for refinishing the deteriorating terrazzo on front (west) porch of the Nemaha County Sheriff's Residence, now serving as the Nemaha County Historical Museum. After discussion, there was general agreement for the plan. Dick also expressed his concern for the damage to the Residence's north porch which he believed was caused by the overgrown bushes in the landscape, the clay soil and the extent of the porch foundations. Structural damage is generally limited to properties on shrinkable clay soils and the root systems of overgrown bushes, he said. They can cause soil shrinkage and subsidence. Buildings built before the 1950s are most at risk. Dick recommended that the bushes on the north of the building be removed to prevent further damage to the porch and a thinning out of bushes to the front (west) porch. Dick also instructed the board how to open the newly restored windows on the Jail and Sheriff's Residence.

Memorial Proposal: Seneca EMT Association members Mary Sack, Betty Haug and Bruce Stanley presented plans for a proposed Seneca EMT Memorial to be located on the Temple of Honor lawn with their remaining organization's funds. Mary Sack gave a brief history of the Seneca EMT Association (1978-2015). Bruce Stanley presented sketches of the proposed memorial which includes two four-foot marble benches on a concrete pad like the Stallbaumer Eagle Award Flag display pad. Although the organization has other locations that they are considering, they prefer this location near Main and 6<sup>th</sup> where the EMT organization served and asked that the NCHS Board of Directors consider their proposal.

Satellite Museum Project: Board members Nancy Gafford and David Key, Executive Director Gary Satter of the Glacial Hills Resource, Conservation and Development Association came before the board to ask that a conversation begin between the NCHS and Glacial Hills RC&D to pursue the development of a Nemaha County Satellite Museum Program. Gary Satter gave a brief review of the Glacial Hills organization and its activities. He suggested discussion has been ongoing since 2006 to develop Marion Hall in Baileyville, and owned by Glacial Hills RC&D, as a Satellite Museum. Nancy Gafford, a member of NCHS, has had custody of the NCHS Baileyville Historical Collection since 2006 and recommended a committee be formed to research and explore a possible framework for the Satellite Museum Umbrella organization and Marion Hall as the first satellite museum.

Eagle Award Projects: Jonathan Stallbaumer and his father, Mike Stallbaumer, came before the board to present Jon's Eagle Award project plan for an outdoor farm exhibit and report on Bryant Stallbaumer's completed Flag and Medallion project. Jonathan described the proposed farm display in which he had worked out in consult with Bob Ackerman. The proposed outdoor farm exhibit would be between Annex I and Annex II with unground drainage, rock covering, canopy, fence and a storage shed. Mike Stallbaumer announced in Bryant's absence due to his work schedule, that Bryant would face an Eagle Award Board of Review on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 to finalize his project.

Business meeting: Secretary Patty Byers acting in the absence of President Anita Heiman called the Quarterly Business Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Patty introduced the minutes of the May 10 Quarterly, and the June 20, June 27, and July 11 Called Board meetings which were distributed to the board in advance of the meeting. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Marlene Geyser, the board approved the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: On a motion by Alma Ackerman and second by Greg Newlin, the board approved the 2017 second quarterly financial report as submitted by Treasurer Ray Thieme. (attached) The 2017 NCHS Operating Budget was submitted for the Board's review, but no action was taken.

Golf Classic Report: Melvin Baker reported that he had booked the first Saturday in April for the 2018 Golf Classic. Melvin recommended that the \$5 discount on entry fees and the kiddie pool chance on hole #9 be eliminated at the 2018 event. Although Melvin agreed to help with the fundraiser, his work schedule would not allow him to chair the event. On a motion by Greg Newlin and second by Freda Dobbins, the board tabled any action for the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Golf Classic Fundraiser until an event chair is in place. Patty Byers presented Melvin with an appreciation certificate from the NCHS board of directors.

Tours & Displays: Director Diane Rottinghaus reviewed the weekly tour schedule and announced the pending August 19<sup>th</sup> Tour for the Manhattan RV group. Marlene Geyser volunteered to assist Alma Ackerman and DarlAnn Rial with the tour. Diane also thanked Alma and Marlene for assistance in updating the room displays in the Sheriff's Residence. As the Residence is returned to an historic Sheriff's Residence, the St. Benedict Room becomes the nursery, the Goff Room becomes the office, the quilt room becomes the sewing room. The tower room becomes the bathroom. The other two rooms on the second floor of the residence continue to be updated with historic bedroom displays.

Membership: Alma Ackerman reported that NCHS currently has 70 lifetime members, 50 paid up 2017 members, and 13 business members. Alma noted that there are 217 current followers on NCHS Facebook's page in eleven states and four foreign countries.

Curator Report: Marlene Geyser reported that the newly rearranged Railroad and Farm Exhibits in Annex II had been completed. All the showcases, but one, were in place in Annex II and that extra showcase would be moved to the nursery in the Sheriff's Residence. All of the Annex II displays have now been updated with deteriorated artifacts removed and duplicates moved to storage.

Research: Karen Holthaus reported steady research requests because of the Past Perfect archives online.

Bancroft Depot: Freda Dobbins introduced Rodney Brown, the newly elected president of Bancroft Preservation Association. Freda introduced Rodney's brother, Roger Brown, who will serve as her replacement as BPA representative to the NCHS board at the end of this business meeting. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Marlene Geyser, the board accepted Freda Dobbins's resignation and approved Roger Brown as the BPA representative. Patty Byers presented Freda with an appreciation certificate from the NCHS Board of Directors. Ray Thieme presented Freda with a notification card that her name plaque had been added to the "Friends of the Museum" board on the wall of Annex I, paid with funds donated by individual members of the NCHS board of directors.

Pioneer Press/ Landscaping: Greg Newlin announced that he would continue his series on the Nemaha County Cooperative Creamery in the next Pioneer Press. He also noted one of the rose bushes on the front (west) porch had died and suggests moving one rose bush from Annex I to that location. Addressing

Dick Miller's proposal to remove the bushes from around the north porch, Greg said his research led him to believe that the problem with the structural damage was more likely due to poor installation, not the bushes. Discussion followed. Trimming the bushes was considered. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Karen Holthaus to cut out the north porch bushes and thin out the bushes around the front (west) porch, the board approved the motion. The board vote tally was 5 approvals, 2 denials, 2 abstentions.

Memorials: Joyce Olberding reported three memorial plaques and one "Friends of the Museum" appreciation plaque have been ordered and installed this quarter.

Maintenance: Bob Ackerman reported on the dehumidifier schedules within the museum complex and how he expects those to be managed. Bob submitted Dick Miller's plan to refinish the terrazzo on the front (west) porch for discussion. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Bob Ackerman, the board approved Dick's terrazzo refinishing plan. Bob also submitted an outdoor display area proposal (attached) which he had encouraged Jonathan Stallbaumer to utilize for his Eagle Award Outdoor Farm Exhibit project. On a motion by Bob Ackerman and a second by Ray Thieme, the board approved Jonathan Stallbaumer's proposed Eagle Award plan. The board also agreed that once the Eagle Award plan is approved by the Boy Scouts, NCHS would be responsible for moving the shed and ordering & paying for the proposed canopy. The Board will expect a project budget from Jonathan at the next quarterly meeting.

Grants: DarlAnn Rial updated the board on status of the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund grant noting that the project specs had been approved and bid sheets were being sent out today, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Jail and Sheriff's Residence Windows project is now completed with the last payment made in July. The Project came in below budget by nearly \$8,000 thanks to Carpenter Dick Miller's efforts. The Jail and Sheriff's Residence's exterior mortar project is now fully funded. (Grant report attached)

Old Business:

Fundraising: Marlene Geyser reported on the June garage sale fundraiser and recommended that future garage sales be open on Thursday evening until 7 p.m., Friday from 8-5p.m. and Saturday until noon. Marlene also noted that the Car Show food booth was successful with all the coffee, sweet rolls and burritos selling out in two hours of sales. Marlene agreed to chair the Highway 36 Treasure Hunt garage sale based on her recommended sales hours. She asked those who could assist with the sale to call her. Greg Newlin agreed to submit announcements on radio for the gathering of items from within the community for the sale. His phone number and Ackerman's phone number would be announced.

New Business:

Board Director: Melvin Baker submitted his resignation to the NCHS board of directors prior to this meeting due to a busy and conflicted work schedule. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Marlene Geyser the board accepted Melvin's resignation. A nominating committee of Anita Heiman, Karen Holthaus, Alma Ackerman and DarlAnn Rial agreed on August 1<sup>st</sup> to ask a candidate to complete the last two years on Melvin's term. The candidate was asked to serve and he wants to think about it. He will respond within the next three weeks. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Marlene Geyser, Karen Holthaus was elected Vice President of the Board to replace Melvin Baker.

Satellite Museum Umbrella: During discussion, Nancy Gafford answered questions about the Satellite Museum project and encouraged the establishment of a committee to discuss and investigate such a proposal and its benefits. On a motion by Bob Ackerman and second by Marlene Geyser, the board approved pursuing an investigation of the Satellite Museum Umbrella and considering Marion Hall as the

first such Satellite Museum on a vote tally of 5 approvals, 4 denials, 1 abstention. Patty Byers asked the board for volunteers to fill the exploratory committee.

EMT Memorial Project: The EMT Memorial Project was considered and fully discussed. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Karen Holthaus, the board approved the EMT Memorial Project and its proposed location if the project waited until the Temple waterline project was completed, possibly by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The board tally vote was 4 approvals, 3 denials, and two abstentions.

Eclipse Opening: Marlene Geysler encouraged the Board of Directors to have the museum open on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for visitors during the Eclipse. DarlAnn Rial volunteered to be at the museum during those opening hours.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next quarterly meeting will be October 17, 2017.

Submitted by DarlAnn Rial, corresponding secretary