

Nemaha County Historical Society
Quarterly Minutes
August 14, 2018

Following a light dinner, President Anita Heiman called the quarterly meeting to order at 5:25pm. Directors in attendance were Anita Heiman, Raymond Thieme, Alma Ackerman, Robert Ackerman, Ilene Enneking, Karen Holthaus, Joyce Olberding, Jason Showman, and Patty Byers. Also attending were Diane Rottinghaus and Marcia Philbrick.

Secretary Report

Patty submitted the minutes from the May 8, 2018 quarterly meeting and the called board meeting on May 29, 2018 as previously emailed to each board member on July 31, 2018. Alma moved and Ilene seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Consortium:

Anita reported that members of the consortium are meeting once each month at our museum. The focus has now shifted to brainstorming about all the areas of interest in Nemaha County. Kylie Luckeroth is developing a pamphlet to be distributed in area motels, etc. This pamphlet will publicize all the points of interest in the county, including restaurants, lodging, museums, churches, cemeteries and graves, trails, and murals.

Grants:

Patty presented the final HTF grant report, which was emailed to each director on July 31, 2018. A copy of the final HTF grant report is attached to these minutes. In addition, DarlAnn Rial and Cathy Holthaus are now preparing the 2019 HTF grant application. They are asking that each of the directors submit a letter of reference, which will be included in the grant application. A copy of DarlAnn's letter of reference was passed around so that everyone could get an idea of how to write their own letter of reference. It was suggested that DarlAnn's letter be emailed to all directors so they would have it as a guide while writing their own letter. Patty will email the sample letter.

Treasurer's Report

Raymond presented the second quarter financial report. The beginning balance in the checking account was \$80,087.65. Income for this quarter was \$115,321.66. Investments include the "general fund cd" (\$5,000), as well as the Dorothy Pearl Murphy investment with Edward Jones in the amount of \$14,680.80. In addition, NCHS earns interest only from the \$40,000 Burger Trust Funds. Total expenses for the second quarter were \$150,072.49, leaving an ending balance in the amount of \$45,336.82. Raymond pointed out that the "land cd" (\$10,000) had been cashed in in June because the checking account balance was low at the time the final payment to AHRS (for construction work done at the Temple of Honor) was due. In response to questions concerning fundraisers, Raymond reported that the Golf Classic netted \$2,477.15, but all bills from the Tractor Cruise have not yet been turned in and paid. Robert moved and Joyce seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the Financial Report is attached to these minutes.

Fundraising:

Jason asked that we consider quarterly donations as one type of fundraising. Raymond clarified the amounts listed as donations on the financial report. Jason then suggested that we set up a Go-Fund-Me account through social media. He emphasized that we should be contacting military organizations that would possibly be willing to donate funds to the Military Museum. Jason will research how to set up a Go-Fund-Me account and report back to us at the next meeting. He will also contact the local VFW and American Legion organizations.

Curator:

Ilene reported that she and Bob have been working in the schoolroom, and that she has additional ideas for possible projects in Annex II and upstairs at the Temple of Honor. She has also contacted Dick Miller concerning the green paint on the steps outside the sheriff's residence. Ilene also expressed a desire to have a bigger presence on Veteran's Day. Discussion followed concerning past

Veteran's Day activities. Ilene will contact Nemaha Central schools and Jason will contact Sts. Peter and Paul school concerning Veteran's Day activities.

Maintenance:

Robert reported that son Doug is donating a lockable three-foot square glass case which could be used at the Temple of Honor to display our newly acquired Civil War rifle, pistol, and letters/pictures. Also, Doug will re-key the locks on the Temple of Honor as soon as he gets time. Doug suggested that it may be time to replace the locks to all buildings since there are several missing keys. Bob reported that he had purchased three new fans. One is being used in the basement of the Temple, and the other two are in the basement of the sheriff's residence. However, there is only one electrical outlet in the sheriff's residence basement, so Bob will install another outlet when his time allows. The dehumidifier has been turned off, but will come back on if the humidity gets too high.

Accessions:

Karen told the board that accessions have been steady this quarter, with 30-40 items accessed in the last 3 months. Our most recent accession was the Civil War rifle, pistol, sword with scabbard, and handwritten communications and pictures belonging to David Ferguson, which were donated by Harry and Phyllis Ferguson. David Ferguson lived in Seneca from 1906-1930.

Tax Credits:

Raymond explained that the \$20,142 tax credits which Community National Bank bought are sitting in our checking account, along with \$9,990.21 from the cashed in "land cd". County Commissioners urged NCHS to get more interest on our money, so Raymond and Anita visited with bank officers at Community National Bank. If NCHS was to move \$40,000 of the current \$60,000+ checking account balance into a 3-month or 6-month CD, we could get 1% or 1.20% interest respectively. Discussion followed on other ways to increase the amount of interest we could receive on our money. Karen moved and Ilene seconded the motion to invest \$40,000 from our checking account into a 6-month CD at Community National Bank. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued on what to do with the Burger Trust CDs. Patty moved and Bob seconded the motion to have STEP Foundation representatives come to our next quarterly meeting to explain if investing with STEP Foundation would make sense for us. Motion carried unanimously.

Tours:

Diane reported that she has been giving a lot of tours this summer, and that all the folks touring our museums have been very impressed with our museums. Donations for the tours have been good.

Membership:

Alma brought the 2018 NCHS membership form before the board for discussion. A problem has developed because the form states that \$100 business members will receive advertising in all four issues of the Pioneer Press. Currently there are 53 \$100 business memberships, and there is not enough space for us to provide advertising for all 53 businesses in all four issues of the Pioneer Press. Discussion followed. Alma moved and Bob seconded the motion to list each \$100+ donor as gold members in each issue of the Pioneer Press, and to list each \$35-\$99 donor as silver members in each issue of the Pioneer Press. Also included in the motion was Alma's recommendation to remove the words "PLUS sponsorship of either Golf Tournament OR Tractor Cruise. Circle one." from the membership form. Motion carried unanimously. Alma also noted that it is difficult to distinguish current members if their dues are paid after the first quarter because of the wording in our by-laws. Alma recommended that our by-laws be clarified in regard to the date that members pay their dues. She suggested that any dues paid after October 1 should qualify the member as current for the remainder of that year and also the following calendar year. Patty moved and Bob seconded the motion to amend Article VI of the NCHS by-laws to read:

"Any member paying dues after October 1 shall be considered a current member for the rest of that calendar year and all of the following calendar year."

Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the revised by-laws section VI is attached to these minutes.

Memorials:

Joyce reported that only one name plate had been added this quarter. The name plate reads: STEP. It will be added to the donations board at the Military Museum.

Travel & Tourism:

Patty reported that T&T committee has not yet met for this round, but that a grant request for flyers for the Hand Dug Well has been submitted.

Research:

Marcia reported that there have not been many requests for research this summer. She mentioned that Cletus Suther was in the museum last week. Cletus keeps the cemetery books for the county up-to-date.

Bancroft:

Patty read an email from Roger Brown which detailed the activities of the Bancroft Depot. A copy of the email is attached to these minutes.

Old Business

Tractor Cruise:

Anita reported that Dee and Roger Fisher has brought by a quilt which used t-shirts from all the tractor cruises in the county for her to see. Patty reported that there were 40 tractors participating this year, and that the tractor cruise seemed to go off without a hitch. Raymond has not received all the bills yet, but he noted that the cost of this year's evening meal was not donated. That fact reduced the amount of proceeds gained from this fundraiser.

Boy Scout Project:

Mike Stallbaumer spoke with Anita and said that he now has time to work with his son on the ag equipment display. Bob noted that much less dirt work than expected will be needed, and consequently the expenses will be less that anticipated. The structure to display the ad equipment will be built between Annex I and Annex II.

EMT:

Patty spoke with Bruce Stanley, and he said their memorial is on hold until we are ready for them to proceed.

Day at the Museum:

All directors that helped with the Open House at the Day at the Museum reported an excellent turn-out of mostly local residents. Most visitors were very impressed with our museums and the hand dug well.

City-wide Garage Sale:

Ray reported that we netted \$1449.24 from the city-wide garage sale. Everyone agreed that it was a big success.

New Business

Business Memberships:

Following a short discussion, it was decided that anyone (business or single member) who donates \$100 will automatically be considered a Gold Member. Anyone (business or single member) that donates \$35-\$99 will automatically be considered a Silver Member. All Gold members and Silver members will be listed in each issue of the Pioneer Press.

Pioneer Press:

Marcia asked for discussion on the timing of posting the Pioneer Press on our website. It was decided that Janet would post the Pioneer Press from the previous quarter just as soon as the next edition was printed. For example, the first quarter edition would be posted online just as soon as the second quarter edition was released.

Discussion was held on the timing of the printing of the newsletter. It was generally decided that it would be the most advantageous to print the Pioneer Press late in the second month of the quarter or early in the last month of the quarter. For example, during the first quarter, the Pioneer Press could be printed and distributed in late February or early March, since the quarter includes the months of January, February, and March.

Discussion was held on the type of articles that need to be included in the Pioneer Press. It was decided that we need to include more articles and pictures of current events that are happening either at the museums or for the benefit of the museums. We should also include articles on new accessions and genealogy as space allows.

Marcia told us that an as-yet anonymous individual has come forward volunteering to help with the production of the Pioneer Press.

Ft. Riley Staycation:

Kylie Luckerth has asked for volunteers to help her promote Seneca at the Ft. Riley Staycation event on September 22, 2018. Due to previous commitments, there were no volunteers.

Highway 36 Sale:

Alma and Ilene are in charge of the highway 36 garage sale to be held September 14-15, 2018. Alma has posted on Nemaha County Swap and Talk that we are now accepting donations for the sale. Patty wrote a small article for the last Pioneer Press, asking for donations. Anita volunteered to go to the radio station to have the announcement put on the radio calendar.

Community Day at the Park:

Patty explained that the Community Day at the Park will be held at the north city park from 11:00am-3:00pm on Sunday, September 23, 2018. NCHS will provide a jail cell photo booth and serve root beer floats while passing out museum flyers. Patty asked for 4 volunteers per 2-hour shift to help with the event. NCHS will have a free will donation jar for the root beer floats. All donations from the entire event will be pooled together and divided by 3. NCHS, STEP Foundation Medical Fund, and Coins for a Cause will be the 3 recipients of the proceeds this year.

Resignation / Recommendations for replacement

Greg Newlin has resigned his position as a member of the Board of Directors for NCHS. Anita called Sheryl Plattner, of Sabetha, to see if she would be interested in replacing Greg on the Board, but Anita had not been able to get in contact with Sheryl. Patty suggested Ken Meyer as a replacement. Jason will talk to Ken to see if he has an interest in joining our Board.

Night at the Museum

Anita asked if there were any suggestions for a Night at the Museum program. Since there were no suggestions, it was decided to drop the program for now.

Landscape:

Raymond reported that Dan Ronnebaum had stopped by the museum to let us know that the canopy over the cannon at the Military Museum is flopping and needs to be stabilized. Bob said he has the materials to fix the canopy, but will need someone to help him with the repair. Raymond also reported that Dan thinks the lawn on the north side of the Military Museum needs to be replanted this fall because the grass did not grow and the north lawn is now full of weeds. If NCHS will pay to have the ground tilled as well as pay for the seed, Dan will spread the seed and pack it down this fall. Dan said that September 15 is the ideal date to plant fall lawns. No action was taken.

Adjournment:

Patty moved and Alma seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Patty Byers, Secretary