

Nemaha County Historical Society
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting
August 13, 2019

Following a light dinner of barbequed pork tenderloin sandwiches, President Anita Heiman called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. The Board members attending were Raymond Thieme, Cathy Holthaus, Alma Ackerman, Robert Ackerman, Anita Heiman, Ilene Enneking, Joyce Olberding, Jason Showman, Patty Byers, and Director Diane Rottinghaus.

Previous Minutes:

Secretary Patty Byers presented the minutes from the May 14, 2019 NCHS Quarterly Meeting for approval. Alma moved and Ilene seconded the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Raymond Thieme presented the second quarter financial report. The beginning balance was \$18,708.29, with \$13,115.22 income for the second quarter. Expenses for the second quarter totaled \$5087.98, which leaves an ending balance of \$26,735.53. NCHS investments include a \$10,000 CD from the land sale at the Military Museum, a restricted \$30,000 CD which is designated for matching grant funds, a \$5000 CD from excess general funds, Mutual Funds donated by Dorothy Pearl Murphy in the amount of \$15,615.93, a savings account for AmazonSmiles in the amount of \$109.03, and a savings account for GoFundMe in the amount of \$100.02. NCHS also receives interest on the \$40,000 Burger Trust Fund. Ilene moved and Robert seconded the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

President's Report: Anita suggested several projects that she would like to complete. She will be contacting someone from Kelly to return the "Kelly display" which has been housed in the jail area. She would like to paint the stairway in the jail area. She would like the school books returned to the school room upstairs in the jail. Anita also asked whether we need to keep the 3 spinning wheels that are upstairs in the sheriff's residence.

Jorgenson's Audit: Raymond explained that Roger Jorgenson had reviewed all our financial records and had created a financial history for NCHS. If our income exceeds \$50,000 per year, we will have to file the tax form, but Raymond does not anticipate our income exceeding that amount in 2019.

Director: Diane has been busy conducting several tours. Everyone seems very impressed with our museum, and financial donations for tours are increasing.

Bancroft Preservation: Roger Brown sent a copy of the Bancroft Bells and Whistles newsletter for us to review. Their annual picnic was scheduled for Memorial weekend but had to be postponed till the next weekend because of the generous rains.

Membership: Alma announced that there are 38 gold members, 69 lifetime members, and that our yearly membership has increased from 24 on May 14, 2019, to 62 on August 13, 2019. Our Facebook followers have increased from 290 followers in May to 343 followers in August. The reach for our Facebook page is 2000. Pretty amazing!

Curator: Ilene is thinking about having a "Night at the Museum" instead of a "Day at the Museum" but the idea is still in the brainstorming stage. Ilene also mentioned that our museums will need to be open on June 13, 2020 for the 150th celebration in Seneca. Also, she mentioned that Dan Ronnebaum has found a glass showcase in Topeka that he would be willing to purchase and donate to the museum. It was generally decided that we need to know specifically where we would use the showcase before we buy any more, especially since Cathy Holthaus has several showcases that belong to NCHS being stored in her garage that need to be removed.

The meeting was suspended for a few minutes while Dan Ronnebaum explained that he had been mowing the lawns at both the Military Museum and the Sheriff's residence and Jail when the mower started making clunking noises and shut down. It will not restart and will need some repairs.

Community Day at the Park: Patty reminded everyone that NCHS had agreed to serve ice cream floats at the Community Day at the Park on Sept. 15. Workers at the 11:00am-1:00pm shift are Anita, Alma, and Patty. Workers at the 1:00-3:00pm shift are Cathy, Ilene, and Ray. We have leftover Dr. Pepper, but will need to supply ice cream.

Pioneer Press: No report

Memorials: No report

Travel and Tourism: Patty reported that we have been asked to have the museums open May 7,8,9,10, 2020 for the Big Kansas Road Trip which highlights only Nemaha, Brown, and Doniphan counties next year. We have also been asked to open the museums on June 13, 2020 for the 150th celebration that Seneca leaders are planning. A short discussion was held on trying to create a banner/flag that we could use to highlight NCHS at functions such as Community Day at the Park, garage sales, Road Trip, and 150th celebration.

Maintenance: Robert reported that he has installed a light fixture in the kitchen of the sheriff's residence. Also, he contacted Young Backhoe to dig out and fill the compost hole which was found in the north lawn. It was much larger than anticipated. Young's accepted 5 of our large, heavy tables (that we do not use) as payment for their work. Next, the storage shed has been moved from the Military Museum to between Annex I and Annex II. A little work will be needed to finish the project. Bob announced that he is recommending that we not have Doug re-key all the locks on the museum doors, but have Doug change back the Military Museum lock so that it uses the same key as Annex I & II. Bob also reported that Dan Ronnebaum is willing to spray the north lawn of the sheriff's residence with Round-Up to kill the weeds and then prepare the lawn for reseeding. Seed will cost nearly \$100, and Dan will need someone with equipment to plant the seed. No decision was made on reseeding at this time. Finally, Robert passed around a resin copy of the lion's head that was originally on the historic water fountain which is being moved to the library lawn. He suggested that we could pre-sell resin lion's heads to anyone interested, and the proceeds would go to the museums. Anita volunteered to contact the local banks to see if there is any interest.

Funding: Jason announced that he is resigning his position on the NCHS Board of Directors due to changes in his personal life. Anita thanked him for his ideas and service this past year and wished him well. Also, Jason moved and Alma seconded a motion to remove the Chiefs ticket link from our website since it is not valid this year and there were no proceeds realized from it last year. Motion carried unanimously.

Grants: Cathy submitted the STEP grant request, but has not heard any results yet. She has also talked with Katrina about the HTF grant request and will be attending a meeting dealing with filling out the grant request on August 23. Submission deadline is December 1, 2019, and Cathy will re-submit our HTF grant request.

Old Business:

EMT Update: Anita announced that she had heard from the EMT's, and they have found a new location for their memorial.

City-Wide Garage Sale: We made \$1271.01, and all seemed to run smoothly. It was generally decided that the results were worth the effort.

Open House: It was estimated that there was not as large a crowd at the Open House this year as there was last year, and we were short-handed but survived. There was left-over Dr. Pepper that will be used at Community Day at the Park.

Tractor Cruise: Not all bills have been turned in yet, so no report was ready on how much we made this year. All went smoothly.

Car Show: We prepared 100+ burritos and 4 dozen cinnamon rolls to sell at the car show. We sold all the cinnamon rolls and 70 burritos at full price, plus 20 burritos for half price. It was suggested that next year we should either use 10-inch tortillas and charge \$3/each, or else make only 50 8-inch burritos. We could use 6 dozen cinnamon rolls next year.

Commissioners' Report: Raymond reported that he and Karen visited with the commissioners again to present a formal request for a \$10,000 increase, but they gave no indication at all as to their intentions.

New Business:

Board of Directors Positions: We now have 2 vacant positions on the Board of Directors. All were asked to think of possible replacements who would make good Directors.

Logo Discussion: Raymond showed pictures of our current logo. A short discussion followed on what a possible new logo could look like.

Highway 36 Garage Sale: Anita is in charge of the sale to be held on September 19, 20, 21, 22, 2019. She will talk to Heidi about making a public service announcement saying we are now accepting garage sale donations, as well as put a want ad in the Courier stating that we are currently accepting garage sale donations.

Alma moved and Patty seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Quarterly Meeting Date: October 29, 2019