



## MINUTES

SEK Museum Alliance Meeting

April 8, 2024

9:00 am – Noon

Host: La Cygne Historical Society

La Cygne Library, 209 N. Broadway St. La Cygne, KS

Thirty-three people, representing 17 museums attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in La Cygne, Ks. SEK Alliance Board President Leanne Githens opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. Leanne shared announcements and updates. Leanne thanked the La Cygne Historical Society for hosting the meeting.

Ray Rothgeb gave the results of the Meeting Location Survey. The meeting location survey was done to help increase attendance at our meetings. In response to the time of meetings 41% preferred the 9:00 - Noon time, 6% said 1 p.m. and 37% said either was fine. In response to the travel time 24% said one hour or less, 41% said up to 1.5 hours travel time. Regarding the question of should our meetings be centralized to reduce travel time for all, 62% responded yes. Ray showed a map with the centralized portion circled which reflects 1.5 hours driving time for everyone. On the question as to whether we should continue with the post cards, 58% said yes. It was announced that after viewing the results the board had voted to centralize the location and we would continue to meet on Monday's from 9-12. The board will work on a process to give all museums a chance to tell their story and share in the costs of the meetings.

Jolene gave the Treasurer's Report. Bank Balance was \$7,968.35 with a bill for \$5,070 for passports to be paid. The closeout of the grant from Freedom Frontier had been sent. The Kansas Tourism grant of \$3,640 is a reimbursable grant, with the funds being received when the project is complete.

Communications report given by Gina. In addition to a quick review of the Web-Site, Gina stressed the use of the Event calendar on the web site. It is for members only, if you want something on the calendar you can contact a board member preferably Ray or Gina and they will put it on the calendar.

### **Marketing Project Update**

Leanne went through the process for recording passport usage. The data concerning how many passports were stamped and the visitor information will be collected quarterly and will be used at the end of the year to provide data of visitors using the passport. Discussion was held on how to handle giving out passports to a large group, such as homeschool students or clubs. The passport has been added as a pdf on the website, so member museums can reference that and suggest a sponsor or teacher could print out the site, they are attending before hand. Passports are still available for purchase by member museums or Chamber of Commerce.

### **Video Production Update**

The Video Committee has received a second draft of the video, and reviewed it. They have provided input back to Prairie Nation Creative. Leanne stressed that work was continuing on the project, however, we may have been overly aggressive in our timeframe by expecting them to be completed in early 2024. She asked for volunteers who would be willing to work on press releases, media contacts, and provide technical instructions for SEK Alliance Member on how to post and share the video when complete.

## **Osage Trail Historic Byway Proposal for SEK**

Ray Rothgeb announced that Roger Pruitt would be giving a presentation on May 10 at the Independence Historical Museum about the Osage Trail Historic Byway Project. .

### **Education Program – Trae Johnson, Kansas Historical Society**

Trae Johnson explained the resources available through Kansas Historical Society. In addition to the Kansas State Historical Museum, they also maintain the State Archives, provide cultural resources, provide tour services at the State Capitol and maintain 16 State Historical Sites.

He is active in working with Kansas Journey – which provides lesson plans in government and social studies which are aligned with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Kansas Memory – is a warehouse of digital images of Kansas, including artwork, letters, photos and youtube videos.

He stressed that Newspapers.com is free to Kansas residents. The Society has a traveling resource trunk that can be used in museums or classroom, as well as educational videos.

They are working to expand access to collections by making videos clips about an exhibit. They host Museum After Hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month, and it is available either by YouTube Video or Zoon meeting. There are over 50 lectures recorded that can be accessed and used.

Kansaspedia has over 2,000 articles on topics or people and can be accessed through their site.

### **Member Museum Presentation**

A presentation were given by Trading Post Museum about their Museum. Mound City explained their project of restoring seven historical building – cabin, barn, bungalow, machine shop and school all located in Mound City park. The group has only been active for the last year and half.

Ruth Reynolds gave the final host talk about the LaCygne museum complex. It consists of 3 building – main museum, Zeta Library and a farm building. She explained some of the programs they have done such as Young Historians, Kansas Day Program, Home Town Team Exhibits.

Next meeting will be September 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Staton, Board Secretary