



## MINUTES - SEK Museum Alliance Board Meeting

March 12, 2024

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, Independence, Ks.

Board members present: Leanne Githens, Jolene Born, Gina McBride, Gila LaRue, Ray Rothgeb. Absent was Lenoir Rowland.

President Leanne Githens called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Gila made the motion to accept the agenda and Jolene seconded, motion carried. Minutes of the January 11th Board meeting was reviewed. Carol moved to approve the minutes. Ray seconded; motion passed.

Jolene gave the treasurer's report. The checking account balance as of February 29 was \$7,968.35. Since that date she had paid for the passports -\$5,070.00. Leaving a balance in checking of \$2,898.35. She had received two late membership - from Columbus and Emporia State University. Columbus had purchased passports, even though they are not in the passport. They had declined being in the passport. Ray moved to accept the treasurer's report, Carol seconded. Motion carried. Gina asked about a pay pal invoice system. She will work on it over the summer. Gina submitted a bill of \$150 for postcards. Carol moved to pay her and Jolene seconded. Motion carried.

Ray gave a membership report saying we were over 60 members. He thought either 62 or 64. There was no SEKTR report.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Survey Results – The results of the survey were provided by Ray. Monday was o.k. with the majority of people responding. Preferred driving distance was no more than 1 ½ hours. For presentations everyone wanted to have the chance to tell their stories.

Discussion was had on how to accomplish giving everyone a chance to tell about their museum if we centralized locations. Discussion was held on just selecting the location and then appointing a representative museum to give their talk. Site considered for the centralized meeting this upcoming year would be Chanute, St. Paul, Iola, Cherryvale. Meeting dates selected were September 9, 2024, November 4, 2024(St Paul), February 10, 2025 and April 14, 2025.

- Marketing Project—Passport, Video, and Website Updates were provided.

Website: Gina showed the Board the updates she had made. She asked the board to play with the site to see what needed to be changed. She will add the passport as a pdf on the website.

Passport: Ray reviewed the budget on the passports. The Freedom Frontier Grant is now ready to close since we have the passports and have paid for them. Ray will send out a letter to remind museums about the tracking of passports stamped. He will explain the quarterly report, and how to report the numbers back to the Alliance.

Discussion was held on how to handle requests for distributions of passports to large groups such as home school groups. Since the museums are purchasing the passports, and they have a limited supply it was suggested that they give one to the group sponsor, and they would then be responsible for either printing out the page of the museum they are visiting or go to our website and print from the pdf file. Gina moved that any future request from any entity for multiple passports should be sold for \$1 provided passports are given out for free to the public. Leanne seconded motion carried.

We need to think about adding shipping costs, since we can't always deliver the passports in person. We will either need to bill shipping costs or the museum will have to pick up in person. Passports can still be ordered at the same \$1 each in bundles of \$25. Ray will remind museums of the order form which was included when the passports were distributed.

Discussion was held on distribution of the passport to Travel Centers for free. Ray moved we distribute to the travel centers, Leanne seconded. Motion carried.

Rack Cards- Discussion was held on giving 100 rack cards to the Travel Centers and then 25 to the other travel sites. It was determined we didn't have enough inventory for that. Ray moved to order another 1,000 cards at a cost of approximately \$400. Motion was tabled due to concern about the funds available.

To expand on the passport project there was a discussion on issuing coloring books for kids, that follow the passport idea. Gina also mentioned stickers, or educational items. The board thought this might be a good project for next year, we could possibly get a grant from National Endowment for Arts. We would need to set up a committee.

Video: Script had been written and sent to Michael on March 3, with a follow up letter sent. There had been no response back from him. Leanne would give him another week before talking with him.

Ray reminded everyone of the Freedom Frontier Partner Meetings this year, and suggested it would be good to attend these meetings.

- Osage Trail Byways Project- Roger Pruitt will give a presentation on their project. We should be looking at setting up a committee to work on this. On May 10 he will present to SEKTR at Independence.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- KMA Presentation – November, 2024  
Leanne provided an outline for a power point presentation that could be given at KMA about the SEK Alliance. Topics would include how we formed, organizational structure, membership, projects, technology, successes
- General Meeting - April 8, 2024- La Cygne
  - Main Speaker will be Trea Johnson from Kansas State Historical Society, we are expecting presentations from Parker Community Historical Society, Trading Post Museum, Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield, and La Cygne Historical Museum.
  - Meeting agenda will consist of a review of the Marketing project, Survey Results, Discussion on requests for multiple passports.
- Membership Tracking Worksheets – Ray discussed the issues he was having with the spreadsheets, and not being able to block out sections from changes by others.

#### **Next Board Meeting Date**

- The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18th in Independence, starting at 9am. Carol will supply snacks for the meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

- Jolene moved to adjourn the meeting and Gila seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.