



MINUTES - SEK Museum Alliance Board Meeting

June 18, 2024

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, Independence, Ks.

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

President Leanne Githens called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Ray made the motion to accept the agenda and Jolene seconded, motion carried. Minutes of the April 8th Board meeting was reviewed. Ray moved to approve the minutes. Jolene seconded; motion passed.

Jolene gave the treasurer's report. The checking account balance as of May 31, 2024 was \$1,175.57. Outstanding bills will be the remaining balance on the video, with outstanding receipts the \$1,500 Freedom Frontier Grant. Gila moved to accept the treasurer's report, Gina seconded. Motion carried.

Ray led a discussion on membership. He stated that the 2025 membership may be harder to sell, since we have completed the video and passport. Ray will put together a team to work on membership. SEKTR report - discussion was held on the Sunflower Summer app and how it worked.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion was led on selection of centralized locations for our meetings. Chanute will host September 9, 2024 at the Memorial Building. Possible co-host would be Erie, Humboldt, Galesburg. Other meeting Sites and dates are:
November 4, 2024 - St Paul February 10, 2025 – Cherryvale April 14, 2025 - Iola
- Marketing Project—Passport, Video, and Website Updates were provided.

Website: - Gina will put the video on the Website

Passport: Ray reported on the letter he sent out to remind museums about the tracking of passports stamped. He still needs 6 for the 1st Qtr. however, it was discussed that several museums were not open during that time. He will send out a 2nd Qtr. email, explaining the quarterly report, and how to report the numbers back to the Alliance. Gila agreed to take extra passports to Chanute so they could be distributed to locations in that area as needed. Ray said it cost approximately \$4.50 to mail 25.

Coloring Book: Thoughts were given on doing a coloring book as a project for 2025 or some type of participatory interactive booklet with word searches, stories, etc. This could be patterned after the passport.

FFNHA Partner Meetings- Ray encouraged people to attend the partner meetings, since these meetings were similar to our quarterly meetings. They are held on the same day as the KMA Board meetings so he can't attend. Meeting dates are September 16th- Kansas City Museum – Kansas City, MO and November 18th – Carnegie Library -Lawrence, KS.

Video: Has been completed and distributed on their Atlas sites. Other museums have started putting it on their Facebook page. Gina will put it on Alliance Facebook page. She will also distribute steps on how to embed it in Websites and Facebook pages. She will wait till we get the 15 – 30 second clips. They should be sent to all

Chambers in SEK. Discussion was held on what we would do different in the future on another video. More time on Script writing and directions before they shoot the footage. This caused us added expenses in editing at a cost of \$85 an hour. She estimated we would owe an addition \$850 because of these additions.

Leanne said with our current checking balance and having to wait for the grant funds from Freedom Frontier, we will be short on being able to pay the final bill to Prairie Nation. She thought we needed approximately \$1800 - \$2,000 to cover the costs until we got our funding. Carol Staton offered to loan SEK Museum Alliance \$2,000 to cover the budget short fall. Ray moved to accept Carol Staton's loan of \$2,000, Jolene seconded. Motion carried. Funds will be repaid in a timely manner. Ray moved that the board express our appreciation and gratitude to Leanne for her hard work on the video project. Gina second, motion carried.

Emily Cowen said they had added the 49 museums to the Abandoned Atlas Map. They have contacted TV stations and newspapers about the video. Leanne will ask if she would send us a copy of her press release so we could either use it or map ours after hers.

- Leanne said she had submitted to KMA a proposed presentation on the passport for the KMA conference
- Osage Trail Byways Project- Roger Pruitt gave a presentation in Independence, Oswego, and Parsons. The Board was not sure what our role should be in this project. He was having trouble getting volunteers, but the board felt he had a lot of ground work to do and the size of the project was overwhelming. The board thought he needed to start with the Osage Nation to get their approval and buy-in. Our position will be to maintain contact and offer to help with what things we can.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Program Suggestions were discussed. Items discussed were:
 - Disaster Planning – Succession Planning – Operational Planning – By -Laws
 - Exhibit Space Preparation
 - Advertising on Social Media –
 - Facebook Live would be a good presentation –bring an artifact and practice a presentation
 - Collections from the 1950-60-70-80 - How to start now on those items
 - History Camp - How to prepare one
 - Freedom Frontier Presentation
 - Oral Histories - Carol had contacted Tai Edwards Professor of History at Johnson County Community College about giving a presentation on Oral Histories – she hadn't heard back from her.
- To Do List Before Next Meeting
 - Leanne will get a copy of Prairie Nations Press Release
 - Ray will contact KMA about speakers on Documents for Museum and Exhibit Design
 - Carol will send Ray a list of locations of prior meetings
- The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13th in Independence, starting at 9am. Gila will bring refreshments.

Adjournment

- Ray moved to adjourn the meeting and Gila seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.