

Nemaha County Historical Society Inc.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2010 – Burger Annex I, Seneca, KS

President Anita Heiman declared quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joyce Olberding, chairman of the landscaping committee, introduced Luke and David Runnebaum. She explained that the committee has asked Luke, a member of Boy Scout Troop 71, working on his Eagle Award Project to accept the challenge to develop the landscaping for the Museum grounds. Luke presented a sketch of his preliminary design and requested approval. On a motion by Richard Schmitz and second by DarlAnn Rial, the board approved the design and allowed up to \$3,000 for the Eagle Project. Luke agreed to submit his plant selection and soil preparation results to the board prior to finalizing the project. President Anita Heiman signed the preliminary Eagle Scout paperwork.

Linda Honeyman, executive director of Seneca Downtown Impact, presented the Main Street streetscape project design as submitted with the KDOT street grant application. Citing the need for the establishment of historic artifacts in a curb bump-out for extra points, Linda proposed moving the Seneca High School pillar, currently in the north lawn of the museum, to Main Street. Joyce Olberding explained that the history of the pillar revealed that it was located on the Southeast corner of the old school which was across the street to the north of the museum. Vern Heiman saved it after demolition of the school, and later gave it to Elmer Heiman, who donated it to the SHS Alumni group, who asked to establish the pillar as a monument to the school and located it on the museum grounds. The pillar orientation with an informational plaque was developed as an Eagle Scout Project of Chris Bennett in 2001. All agreed that other historic plaques preserved in the museum might be acceptable in the streetscape. Discussion of the terms expected in an Eagle Award Project followed. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and second by Richard Schmitz, the board agreed to recommend the pillar remain on the museum grounds in appreciation of the Alumni group who established the monument. Secretary DarlAnn Rial will notify the SDI and Sandra Vaught of the board decision.

The minutes of the February 10, 2010 quarterly meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Richard Schmitz and second by Alma Ackerman. Financial Chairman Dean Rial reported that the balance in bank account on April 30, 2010 was \$9,884.68. He noted that income was \$35,185.74 and expenses were \$38,041.84 for the past nine months. Dean Rial reported that he has not rolled over a \$5000 CD from the Burger Trust which came due on March 29, 2010. Any investment of that CD at this time would be risky, Dean said and recommended sitting on the money for now. On a motion by Alma Ackerman and second by Harry Stewart, the board approved the financial report.

Frances Davis reported on activities at the Bancroft Depot Museum, affiliated with the Nemaha County Historical Society. Frances announced plans for the Bancroft picnic on June 27 and reported on the progress on cleanup for the opening of the Depot Museum on Memorial Weekend. The museum is open every Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. during the summer months through September. The board is investigating different paint for the depot. Frances reviewed the history and establishment of the Spring Creek Classics museum in Wetmore. Bob Carson has established a Chrysler/Plymouth dealership museum open by appointment.

Director Diane Rottinghaus reported on the April 14th traveling exhibit that she and Anita presented at the Country Place Assisted Living Center on April 14th. They have been

invited back for another presentation on July 14th. Diane also submitted the preliminary report on the museum inventory. Over 10,000 items are now documented in the museum with over 967 accessions. She requested permission to de-access twenty-nine items that are missing from the inventory. If found, the items can be re-accessed, she explained. On a motion by Joyce Olberding and second by DarlAnn Rial, the board gave permission for the de-accession of the twenty-nine items.

Curator Lillian Engelken reviewed a list of donations to the museum and recommended the board accept the items for the museum. The list included items printed in the May newsletter, the Pioneer Press, and Evelyn Walters, Eldon Olberding and Frank Lindemuth. On a motion by DarlAnn Rial and a second by Alma Ackerman, the items were approved for accession, including a Honda riding mower and six by six foot trailer.

Membership Chairman Alma Ackerman reported 55 life members and forty-four members have renewed for another year. Sixty-four members are unpaid for the 2010-2011 year, but Alma plans to send them reminders with the August newsletter. A discussion of the business sponsorships followed with no decision made.

Joyce Olberding reported that she has ordered the Memorial Plaque for John Hutfles. NCHS received \$300 donation in his memory.

The Board discussed issues related to the maintenance of the museum. 1. The water line under the residence broke on the first day of thaw. Eisenbarth Plumbing replaced water line, 20 feet: \$379.64 and Bill Huerter provided the backhoe service at \$75 per hour for two hours. Bill provided three snow removals at the museum this year free of charge. 2. Water flooded the second floor area in library and school room this month. The Insurance company was called; we were assured that it was caused by hail damage that insurance company has already paid us for; no new claim. Bergman Roofing called to repair damage that insurance has covered but they have not shown up. In our evaluation, the flooding was caused by backup in drainage. Once the drain was cleared, there has not been any more flooding through the ceiling. However, there has been flaking of paint on ceiling which now needs scraping and painting. Approval was given. 3. A smell of gas precipitated a call to KGS who checked all buildings. There was a leak in line but we are not using any gas service, have been paying minimum for pilot light on stove in kitchen. The gas was turned off, the meter, and the line removed. 4. The Window Restoration on all windows is desperately needed, but has no estimates yet; we will file on Heritage Trust by August. 5. The cistern is a brick lined hand dug well and continues to settle. David Key inspected it and offers to help us to officially cap the well. It will cost \$40 but need some help digging two feet down and filling with bentonite. On a motion by Richard Schmitz and second by DarlAnn Rial, the board agreed to cap the well with David Key's assistance. 6. Anita explained that Dow Chemical had provided a grant for termite protection to Schendel Pest Control for distribution. Schendel provided that protection to NCHS at no cost; there will be a maintenance fee in four years.

Anita Heiman reviewed plans for the Pony Express 150th Anniversary Celebration and the exhibit that the Pony Express Museum's volunteers are working to have ready by July 22nd. She previewed a list of 25 items that the PEM needs to use in their displays. After discussion, the board agreed to loan any item needed by the Pony Express Museum, but recommended that valuable items such as the top hats be limited to a week loan rather than a three month loan.

Anita reviewed fundraising plans noting that the Tractor Cruise fundraising meeting is scheduled for this Thursday and the Open House is set for Sunday, May 16th from 2:00 to

4:00 p.m. A sheet was passed around the table for volunteer help, food items and silent auction items.

DarIAnn and Dean Rial submitted the preliminary drawings by Troy Nordhus of Nordhus Woodworking for the proposed military exhibit. The sealed oak and plexus-glass display is projected to be built in Annex II at an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$20,000. On a motion by Harry Steward and second by Joyce Olberding, the board approved the plans for submission to the public at the Open House. The Military Exhibit will be the specific benefit focus for all the fundraising events.

In response to Frances Davis's request that the Kelly traveling display and miniature town begin a rotation throughout Nemaha County communities, President Anita Heiman made contact with the Corning First National Bank. Dean Rial delivered the display on May 6th for a month's exhibit at Corning.

DarIAnn Rial submitted the format and schedule for summer classes at the museum to promote preservation of history in other Nemaha County communities. After discussion of the format and distribution of the registration, the board approved the project on a motion by Richard Schmitz and second by Alma Ackerman.

The board discussed museum hours, need for volunteers and projected staff. On a motion by Dean Rial and second by Harry Steward, the board agreed to keep the museum open five days a week from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With two volunteers on duty each of the five days.

In other business, Anita Heiman appointed Richard Schmitz, Alma Ackerman and Harry Stewart as nominating committee. Four positions are up for re-election: Eugene Visser, Richard Schmitz, Anita Heiman and Theresa Hutfles.

There being no other business, the board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

In attendance at the meeting were Anita Heiman, Dean and DarIAnn Rial, Richard Schmitz, Clara Reinecke, Joyce Olberding, Eugene Visser, Lillian Engelken, Harry Stewart, Alma and Bob Ackerman, Diane Rottinghaus, Toby and Byron Lear and Frances Davis.

Signed: *DarIAnn S. Rial* DarIAnn S. Rial, Secretary