



MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 8, 2014

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Speakeasy Restaurant, Holdrege

PURPOSE: Membership

Tom Hastings called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. First order of business was to approve the agenda. Betty Sayers noted that the replacement of Gaylen Hadley as guest speaker for the June meeting needed to be added. Agenda then approved as revised.

Review and approval of minutes.

Rex Nelson called for approval. Nancy Herhahn seconded. Minutes approved.

Financial Report

There was no report. Jean Issler submitted an invoice of \$630 for her service. A motion was made to approve the invoice payment. Rex Nelson approved and Betty Sayers seconded the motion.

New Business

The future meeting agenda called for senators Hadley, Gloor, Carlson Seiler and Christianson to speak on a "wrap-up" of the 2013-14 legislative session at the May 13 meeting. As that is soon after the primary election day, it was decided this would not be a good time for these speakers. It was decided they would instead be asked to speak at the June 10th meeting. That meeting will be held in Minden, Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn.

Tim Anderson suggested that Jim Douglas, Director of Nebraska Game & Parks be asked to replace Mr. Hadley as speaker for the May 13, 2014 meeting. All agreed. Tim will contact Mr. Douglas. The meeting will be held at the Navigator restaurant in Republican City.

Golf outing in Cambridge on July 8, 2014. Tom Hastings suggested each community should commit to a team. Teams need to sign up by June 15th. Jean Issler will begin to promote the event and contact Cambridge to assure the date is scheduled.

Arrange date and place for the South Platte organization's planning retreat. It was decided that Holdrege would be a central location and that the month of October would be best. The time will be at noon. Location to be determined.

November meeting to be determined.

December meeting will involve inviting the state senators to review the 2014-15 legislative session.

A discussion was held on what might be a good process to find out what bills are presented and which SPUCC should be supporting. The Nebraska Economic Development Association has a process that we may be able to model. Sharlette Schweninger will contact Jen Wolf, president NEDA, to learn more about it. SPUCC wants to be supportive of agriculture and tourism issues.

Ideas to further tourism in the South Platte region: Betty Sayers will contact Nebraska Life to pursue reprinting of the Voyager Magazine or get an online website version.



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Legislative Issues

There were no immediate issues. Tim Anderson will set up a legislative reception for 2015.

Community Comments

Elwood: downtown revitalization continuing; getting community input about adding a sales tax

REAP: Dena Beck reported REAP has lent \$10 million with the average loan \$12,000

McCook: Rex Nelson reported the city is making progress on their housing issues, with the community organizations beginning to work together to solve issues

Hastings: Tom Hastings reported that the housing shortage is still an issue; finding skilled labor for the manufacturing sector is a problem. The Community College is looking as was to use satellite locations to create programs to fill this need.

Oxford: the Orleans hotel sold; working to get it up to code. Monica will be moving to Aurora. Looking to find her replacement.

Meeting adjourned.

The dinner was followed by state representative candidate Jon Kuehn introducing himself and his ideas. The governor candidates Pete Ricketts and Chuck Hassebrook each had time to speak about themselves and present their priority issues.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 13th, The Navigator, Republican City