



MINUTES

SEK Museum Alliance Meeting

Nov. 13, 2021

9:00 am – Noon

**Host: Cherryvale Museum
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church,
202 S Liberty St.
Cherryvale, KS 67335**

Forty-four people attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in Cherryvale. SEK Alliance Board President Ray Rotheb opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions. First-time attendees were acknowledged.

Board member Gina McBride led the group in a getting-to-know each other mixer, with participants sharing what is unique about your museum.

Successes/Challenges of the past 3 months were shared and the discussion was moderated by Leanne Githens.

“Spotlight on Museums” was conducted by Leanne. Three museums were interviewed to briefly answer three questions:

1. Tell us what your museum is most known for
2. What is your favorite story to tell visitors
3. How did you get involved with your local museum?

Museums featured were Girard History Museum shared by Debbie Sims, Osage Mission shared by Jolene Born, and Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum shared by Cindy Dent.

Ray shared a series of announcements and updates:

- Mug sales – the cost of purchasing the mugs has been covered and we are now in the profit zone. Mugs are still available.
- Passports are still available and members were reminded that while the contest will come to a close at the end of the year, the passport itself will still have usable information in it. Ray presented data showing that our efforts to promote the passport have dropped off in the last quarter.
- The organizational survey is an important survey to help the board determine the general meeting day attendance, preference of day of the week and month, the number of board members preferred, and the method of electing officers. The deadline for completing the survey is Nov. 30.
- SEKTR is developing a rack card promotion that the Alliance will participate in. The rack cards will be distributed throughout SEK and located in Casey’s and Pete’s stores. We have paid the \$120 membership fee and the rack card fee of \$75 to be able to have preferred placement on the rack.
- The SEK Museum Alliance won a graphic design award at the KS Museum Association Conference in Lawrence this month for our Passport. Marcia Taylor

accepted the award on behalf of the Alliance and in recognition of her primary role in the development of the Passport.

Kelly Santorius presented a brief overview of Freedom's Frontier, National Heritage Area encompassing parts of Kansas and Missouri. She clarified some of the misinformation regarding the program, and emphasised the opportunities for museums to participate and apply for grants. The program was established in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan and was designed to designate areas that are historically significant, but not take any private property. Attendees were encouraged to visit the website, www.freedomfrontier.org, and download the Freedom's Frontier app on their phones for more information and ways to participate.

Current treasurer, Terri Harley reported a balance of \$1,424.13 as of November 13, 2021. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by consensus.

Carol Staton, 2022 Project Chair, presented information on "Day Trippin' Driving Tours – SEK Museums & More". These tours are all about telling the story of our area wherever you go in the region. Carol has developed a multi-page worksheet to help participants plan and implement successful tours. An afternoon workshop at our February meeting was proposed. This project will have four phases:

1. Educational – what is a Day Trippin' Driving Tour?
2. Develop the tour
3. Partner with another museum for an extended tour
4. Develop SEK Alliance members Driving Tours

Board elections were held. Museums had previously had an opportunity to submit nominees, and nominees were called for from the floor. There were none to add to those present members who had agreed to run again.

- Terri Harley made a motion to accept the slate of board members presented in both the West Region and the East Region. Joyce Garner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Board members elected were:
 - o West Region: Ray Rothgeb, Leanne Githens, and Gina McBride
 - o East Region: Carol Staton, Jolene Born, and Ed Born

To establish a staggered rotation of terms on the board, one member per region will serve a 1-year term, one a 2-year term, and one a 3-year term until those rotations are complete and all six positions are 3-year terms.

- The At-Large board member serves a 2-year term. Cathy Mitchell made a motion to accept the proposed candidate, Marcia Taylor. Lois Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Austin Williams, curriculum coordinator at the Kansas State Historical Society, presented a program on KS Social Studies Standards and how we can tie our museum content and experiences to the standards and disciplines that students are tested on. We can develop specific tours for specific grade levels and link them to standards and benchmarks. Attendees

were encouraged to become familiar with the KS Social Studies Standards and the educational resources that are available.

Local history was presented by Mike Wood, President of the board of the Cherryvale Museum.

Final announcements included a website review from Gina McBride.

The next meeting will be February 12 in Chanute.

A soup luncheon was available for a small donation, and the museum was open for tours in the afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Githens, Board Secretary