



MINUTES

SEK Museum Alliance Meeting

Feb. 8, 2020
9:00 am – Noon

Host: Benson Historical Museums
145 Wabash Ave
Howard, KS 67349
Marcia Taylor, Director

Thirty-six people attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in Howard. SEK Alliance Board President Ray Rotheb opened the meeting with welcomes and introductions.

Board member Gina McBride led the group in a getting-to-know each other mixer.

Ray conducted the business meeting portion of the morning.

- He briefly reviewed the approved organizational structure of the Alliance, emphasizing the East-West Region division along HW 169. The board reaffirmed the desire to have balanced participation and representation from each region, so if the community falls on HW 169, the museums in that community will be in the West region.
- Ray reviewed the minutes from both board meetings and general meetings, which had been emailed to all. Attendees were encouraged to verify their email addresses to ensure they are receiving all communications.
- Two questions were brought before the group for balloting:
 - o Proposed Mission Statement – Lois Carlson moved and Nancy Kernick seconded the motion to adopt the following Mission Statement:
“The Mission of the SEK Museum Alliance is to work together to support the museums of Southeast Kansas through promoting their events and activities, sharing resources, and providing learning opportunities to advance our unique histories.” Motion approved by acclamation.
 - o Art Gallery question – Discussion was held on inclusion of art galleries as Alliance members and what constitutes a museum. After much input, the key questions are:
 - 1. Does the institution self-identify as a museum?
 - 2. Do they have a core collection of items that are not for sale and are on display?
 - 3. Are they a non-profit institution?
 - 4. Do they have a physical presence?Kris Crane moved and Sarah Myers seconded a motion to charge the board with wordsmithing the definition of a museum, keeping these 4 key questions in mind. Motion approved by acclamation.

Passport Project Report – In the absence of project chairman Ali Hamilton, Ray reported on the progress the committee has made. ***See the attachment for the full committee report.

Communications Report – Gina McBride reported that there are 62 entities on the list at present. Members may post public events on the gmail SEK Alliance calendar.

Program – “Preservation for Small Museums”

- Skye Conley from Independence, a KU grad student and Museum Management Degree candidate, presented the program, focusing on what it means to preserve. He encourage the members to think in terms of the whole museum, the local demographics, and the need to be representative of all parts of the local stories.

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

Lois Carlson has volunteered to be the reporter for the next two meetings, writing a press release to be approved by the board prior to dissemination.

Local history was presented by Marcia Taylor, director of the Howard Benson Museums. She had many promotional suggestions that have worked in her community.

Next meeting – Kris Crane volunteered to host the April 4 Alliance meeting in Coffeyville at the Brown Mansion. Chris Wilson has volunteered to host the Sept. 12 meeting in Pittsburg.

A list of area restaurants serving lunch was provided, and the 7 museum buildings were available to be toured in the afternoon.

***Attached – the Passport Project Committee Report