



MINUTES

SEK Museum Alliance Meeting

November 13, 2023

9:00 am – Noon

**Host: Wilson County Historical Society & Museum
Rollin "Red" Vandever Memorial Park, Jade Rd, Fredonia, KS.**

Thirty-three people, representing 19 museums attended the SEK Museum Alliance quarterly meeting in Fredonia, Ks. SEK Alliance Board President Leanne Githens opened the meeting with a welcome, introductions and a thank you to our veterans.

Leanne shared announcements and updates. Leanne thanked the Wilson County Historical Museum for hosting the meeting.

Jolene gave the Treasurer's Report. Bank Balance was \$6,241.31 which included \$1,500 of Grant money received from Kansas Tourism. We had paid a \$2,000 signing fee to Prairie Nation on the Video.

Ray gave a membership report. He thanked everyone for paying their 2024 dues early, so that we could complete the passport and the video. We have 40+ members.

Communications report given by Gina. Gina did a quick review of the Web-Site for any new members present. She handed out a worksheet to help members with their on-line presence. Review your facebook and web sites to make sure the facts, addresses, phone numbers, hours of operation are correct. She offered to help anyone set up a facebook account or email account if they would contact her. She also reminded everyone about the Website having an Event Calendar for special programs going on at member museums.

Leanne asked how many had attended the KMA Conference, four SEK Museum Alliance Members had attended, Ray Rothgeb, Leanne Githens, Carol Staton and Alison Hamilton. Each attendee was asked to give a short summary of what they learnt or enjoyed at the meeting.

Marketing Project Update

The draft of the Passport has been sent to the printer. Proofs will be sent to the museum for review of their page. Passport should be completed by December with distribution by January 2024. Ray reminded museums we will need to record visitors using the passport, as it will be part of our metrics that need to be reported to finalize the grant paperwork. A SEK Museum Alliance stamp will be provided to stamp the passports.

The format of the passport will be as follows – Page with participating museums – printed map, individual pages for museums which will contain a photo, narrative, contact information, Freedom Frontier Designator and QR Code. We have three large sponsors for the passports – Freedom Frontier, SEK Tourism and Kansas Crossing. We will be asking Tourism Bureaus to purchase as well.

Video Production Update

Prairie Nation Creative will produce one 5-6 minute video and three 15-30 second advertising spots. The contract paid for 2 days of filming and 1 night lodging. Since it was impossible to visit all 45 museums that had signed up for the passport, due to travel and time constraints of the the two day filming, the filming tried to center on key historical themes taken from the speciality tour. All museums were given

the opportunity to submit up to 15 photos of their museum. The deadline for sending the photos to Ashley Hovel is November 16. It has always been our objective to include all museums in some way in the video, whether its through photos or a reference of each museum at the end of the video. A museum may not be in the passport, but if a paid member they will be included in the video.

Web Page and Speciality Tours

Leanne reminded everyone to pick up a Speciality Tour Form if they haven't already, and get it turned in, so that we can begin to develop and advertise Speciality Tours – where multiple museums have the same core exhibit, we could build a driving tour which advertises each museum for that same core exhibit.

Board Elections

Leanne reported we had three positions for election. One representative from the West, East and At Large. Currently we had nominations of Leanne Githens for West Region, Jolene Born for East Region and Gila LaRue for At-Large. Ballots were distributed during the break and contained a place for write in nominations.

Osage Trail Historic Byway Proposal for SEK

Dave Oas, Oak Grove School Historical Society, gave a talk on trying to establish an Osage Trail Historic Byway with the State of Kansas. He presented maps that they had found showing what they believe to be the path of the Osage Trail, and also a map of a proposed ByWay trail that could be developed. He encouraged the SEK Alliance to think about helping with this project.

Education Program Round Robin

Leanne gave a presentation on the preparation of QR Codes that can be used in your museum. She provided handouts and provided time for members to prepare one on their computer. Carol Staton gave a demonstration on PosterMyWall – showing how to make posters for your museum. She provided handouts and provided time for members to prepare one on their computer.

Member Museum Presentation

In lieu of the host location giving a presentation on their museum, Caney Historical Museum gave a presentation on their museum. Gina gave background on how Caney was actually moved from Indian Territory to it's current site, when the boundary lines were changed. She gave interesting facts on Caney and the Caney Historical Museum complex consisting of museum, school, sandstone building.

Election results were presented with Leanne Githens, Jolene Born and Gila LaRue being elected.

Meeting Adjourned. Host Wilson County Historical Society provided a lunch of soup and desserts.

Next meeting will be February 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Staton, Board Secretary