

Fort Sisseton Commission Meeting  
April 29, 2025  
Minutes  
Noon in Library/Schoolhouse

The Fort Sisseton Commission met April 29, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm. Commission members present were Doug Eidahl, Todd Garry, JoAnn Hawkinson, Bill Hoskins, Calvin Hove, Kirk Jones, Jim Patrick, Bruce Prinz, Chuck Vrchota, and Casey Weismantel. Personnel present from GFP were Willy Collignon, Al Nedved, and Rebecca Hedlund. Present for SD Tourism was Calvin Bloemendaal. Attending from designArc Group were Tom Squires and Ali Kummer. Joining by phone was Ali Tonsfeldt. Minutes taken by Connie Leschisin.

AGENDA ITEMS

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

MOTION BY G TODD GARRY, SECOND BY DOUG EIDAHl TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AS TYPED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New District Manager Rebecca Hedlund was introduced.

OLD BUSINESS

The Master Plan presented a blank space to designate the Visitor Center. designArc Group presented the drawing they developed for use in fundraising for the new Center. Commissioners provided feedback on the drawings. Based on these design elements they advised a fundraising goal of \$5.25 - \$5.5 million. MOTION WAS MADE TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS WITH THESE DESIGNS WAS MADE BY G TODD GARRY, SECOND BY JOANN HAWKINSON. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ali provided project updates on:

Hospital – Met with the company, with the goal to be done by the end of May.

Boardwalk - Should be completed in August/September.

Residence – May 26<sup>th</sup> is the date house move is planned.

North Barracks – Shingle repair was completed with District 1 Conservation Techs training day.

Ali provided past event updates on:

Exploration of Tea event in March was well attended.

Calligraphy Event was moved to May 1.

2025 Historical Festival updates:

South parking lot will be run like last year.

More events are being added on Thursday and Friday.

Food vendors are committed. Arts and Craft vendors are down, but being contacted.

Chuckwagon fundraiser – sponsor letters will be sent, with tickets sold on GFP event calendar.

Melodrama will be happening.

Baseball game with MN team will be Saturday at 2.

Barrel racing will be in the arena on Saturday.

Variety show – still looking for more participants.

Discussion was held on the type of publicity to do about meeting minutes. CASEY WIESMANTEL MADE A MOTION TO PROVIDE MEETING AWARENESS IN THE FORT NOTES AND FACEBOOK PAGE, SECOND BY CHUCK VRCHOTA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Fort Sisseton 2025 Calendar of Events flyer were discussed.

Northern Fort Playhouse will again be in residence during July weekends.

Discussion on Land & Water Conservation Fund being a possible 50/50 match for the Lions Playground.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY BILL HOSKINS, SECOND BY G TODD GARRY. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next meeting will be July 29, 2025.