

Fort Sisseton Commission Meeting
April 14, 2020

The Fort Sisseton Commission met April 14, 2020 by conference call. The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm. Commission members present were Bruce Prins, G. Todd Garry, Casey Weismantel, Kirk Jones, Jim Patrick, Eileen Warzeka, Judy Gulleason, Doug Eidahl and Bill Hoskins. GFP personnel present were Ali Tonsfeldt, Willy Collignon and Lori Skadsen. Tourism personnel present was Calvin Bloemendaal. Minutes taken by Dalaine Pleinis.

AGENDA ITEMS

FESTIVAL Ali asked the commission's advice as to holding Festival 2020 with the current concerns of the current Covid-19 pandemic and the current state shut down/limited work order. Of concern is the getting the Fort ready, attendance, and what that would look like. Discussion was held. A poll of the commissioners was taken.

MOTION BY CASEY, 2ND BY BILL TO CANCEL JUNE'S FESTIVAL 2020. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Press released will be sent out. Fort staff will contact the vendors, contractors, performers and those involved in the Festival 2020.

NORTHERN FORT PLAYHOUSE At this time the NFP does not plan to have plays in 2020. Two of their directors have left and the current Covid-19 situation has affected participation. They are also concerned that many of their attendees are in the high-risk category.

MOBILE APP GRANT Ali informed the commission the grant decision will be made on May 1. If we receive the grant it would pay for half of the cost. Conversation in the April 28 meeting was that the commission would be willing to pay for the other half. She asked the commission if they would be willing to pay for the entire app if the grant did not come through. A lot of work has already been done. It would also help visitors be able to still have a "tour" during this social distancing/staff shortage time. The full cost would be \$6690 that would pay for the initial installation and the first year of service.

MOTION BY CASEY 2ND BY JIM TO PAY ANY BALANCE NOT PAID BY THE GRANT FROM THE GREAT PLAINS EDUCATION FUND. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS At this time we have self-guide pamphlets throughout the park. Ali asked the commission to let her know if they have any creative ideas to help with tours while keeping social distance.

WEDDINGS AND OTHER EVENTS If the current circumstances persist throughout the summer, the decision has been made to offer the special event customers the option to move their event, fees, and permits to 2021.

MUSEUM At this time all offices and public facilities are closed to the public as per the state's executive order. We are waiting for directives from Pierre as to opening the museum. Of concern are staffing, sanitation and social distancing.

FUTURE MEETING PROCEDURES Willy proposed that any future meetings be held by video conference. He will investigate alternatives that will best suit everyone on the commission.

MEETING ADJOURNED.