

Fort Sisseton Commission Meeting
February 25, 2025
Minutes
Noon in Library/Schoolhouse

The Fort Sisseton Commission met February 25, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Chairperson Bruce Prinz. Commission members present were Doug Eidahl, Todd Garry, JoAnn Hawkinson, Bill Hoskins, Kirk Jones, Jim Patrick, Bruce Prinz, Rosie Smith, and Chuck Vrchota. GFP personnel present were Willy Collignon, Al Nedved, Shawn Hendricks, Paxton Steen, and Ali Tonsfeldt. Present for SD Tourism was Kirk Hulstein. Joining for SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation staff was Kristina Coby. Minutes taken by Connie Leschisin.

AGENDA ITEMS

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

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

The Financial Report was presented by Ali. The report is broken down to fund category. Kristina Coby explained that the Commission does not pay an administrative fee, does not incur interest, and do have taxes withheld. The only correction to the report was the Fund Category Breakdown beginning fund balance for Bob Perry Funds should read \$9,037.90

MOTION BY BILL HOSKINS, SECOND BY CHUCK VRCHOTA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING WITH CORRECTION ABOVE. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

Shawn provided project updates on:

COQ – Roof completed in fall, gutter replaced recently, tuck pointing completed.

Hospital – Roof scheduled before May 30th

Manager residence – could be moved from Fisher Grove in next few weeks before weight limits, then complete upgrades in April.

Septic/Boardwalk – work is hoped to be done between the first week of August and mid-September. The boardwalk impacted by the septic will be done with contractor. The remaining 2/3 will be done by staff.

Past events were detailed by Ali. Frontier Christmas was attended by 437 people. The chili feed was free will offering and made \$993, compared to \$152 last year. With the penny press proceeds the Commission had \$1005 revenue. Ernie Richards donated his sleigh.

Master Plan updates focused on the architect work completed by Design Art from Sioux Falls. A Visitor Center location has been identified, and a concept of a low building that duplicates the stone wall look.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussed was if Commission meetings should be printed in local papers. Instead, it was decided that 'Town Hall' meetings that are facilitated by the Foundation will be held.

The Podcast crew that participated in 2024 Festival provided feedback of being very happy with their, Marching Back in Time.

The Britton Foundation is unhappy with the length of time their donation has been unused in the construction of a new playground. It was decided to use the playground as the early Master Plan kick off. Other funding sources will be pursued to provide the remaining funds necessary for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Events: Paxton Steen, Conservation Technician was introduced. Shawn will be leaving before the end of March.

The new GFP web-based Calendar of Events was demonstrated. The 2025 Fort Calendar of Events was provided. In May a celebrity Ghost Investigation/Fundraiser will be held.

Historic Festival 2025 will be June 6-8th. It will include a new Variety Show on Thursday night, and speakers on Friday. The MN group will be playing baseball on Saturday.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY KIRK JONES, SECOND BY CHUCK VRCHOTA. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next meeting will be April 29, 2025.