

Fort Sisseton Commission Meeting
July 31, 2020

The Fort Sisseton Commission met July 31, 2020 at Fort Sisseton and via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 11:00am. Commission members present on site was Bruce Prins, Kirk Jones, Eileen Warzeka, Judy Gulleon, Rosie Smith, Calvin Hove and Bill Hoskins. GFP personnel present on site was Ali Tonsfeldt, Basil Knebel, Willy Collignon and Lori Skadsen. Tourism personnel present on site was Calvin Bloemendaal. Commission members present via Zoom was Casey Weismantel, Jim Patrick, Duane Hemmah and Doug Eidahl. GFP personnel present via zoom was Al Nedved and Lisa Weyer.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

- Calvin Hove and Rosie Smith were introduced as the two new members for the Fort Sisseton Commission. They are replacing previous Commissioners Mary Dunn and Glenn Johnson.

AGENDA ITEMS

- Lori updated everyone on the projects coming up include repairing dormer and windows in OQ, reshingle OQ roof, renovating geotherms and wells, repairing the camping cabins, park shop renovation including a bathroom in the shop and the library/schoolhouse reshingle project is a possibility depending on the money used by the magazine.
- Redoing of the stage was brought up. The project is on the list, but unknown when at this time.
- Willy introduced Mike Gruba the new Building Maintenance Specialist for District 1.
- COQ update: all the maintenance aspects of the COQ restoration is completed. Now we are working on the cosmetic aspect of the COQ with artifacts and displays.
- Ali gave an update on past events. The events are as follows:
 - o “No Bus, No Fuss” Field Trips. There were 20 different classes that participated in the virtual field trips. Only two of the classes had been to the Fort previously. Two Kiwanis Groups, one from Nebraska and Iowa requested a “No Bus, No Fuss” Field Trip.
 - o Virtual Historical Festival had over 40 people join for each topic and each video that was posted averaged a 1,000 views within a week.
 - o The Lantern Tours have been a huge hit averaging 30 to 40 people per zoom. A Lantern Tour was put on for OLLI which had about 400-500 people from all over including MS, NE, IA and SD.
 - o #FunFactFriday is averaging about 4,000 views per week.
 - o The Murder Mystery at the Fort had over 172 groups participate in the murder mystery. The event was extended to the end of July to people enjoying it.
- Talk with an 1800’s solidier update was given by Bill Hoskins. They average about 30 people for their talk. They will be doing the talk again on August 8th.
- Ali gave Grant Updates:
 - o The Magazine contract for the Deadwood Grant has been filled out and sent up the chain of command
 - o The ADSM Grant’s deadline has moved to October 1st. Ali will be applying for the Grant to help with the exhibit on the COQ
 - o Glacial Lake Marketing Grant was originally filled out for the Historical Festival but is now being used for the Harvest Festival, Haunted Fort and Frontier Christmas.
 - o Phase 1 for the SD Humanities Grant, Oncell mobile app, has been completed and we will be working on Phase 2 which includes “Hidden Gems” and Video of the buildings that are closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment at this time

NEW BUSINESS

- Judy talked about the donation given to Fort Sisseton by Janelle Swanson and her family for the Fort.
- Ali talked about wrapping the A/C units with the same material that the A/C heads are wrapped in but instead of wood, it would be the stone. The cost is \$1,300.98 over the \$2,078.20 that the Commission has budgeted at this time. It was tabled for an email vote once two questions are answer: how long will it last and what will it look like? Ali will follow up with an email to the Commission, followed by an email vote.

- Ali talked about the upcoming events with COVID. Pioneer Kids Virtual Camp will be happening in September with Saturday being an interactive time. Harvest Festival is a go, but everything will be outside with the CDC guidelines. Harvest Festival is September 19th and volunteers will be needed. Haunted Fort is still a go currently with a looking on how to do the maze. Haunted Fort is Oct. 16th and 17th. Frontier Christmas is December 12th.
- Calvin from Tourism gave an update on the South Dakota Tourism Marketing plan and how it can help Fort Sisseton

MEETING ADJOURN at 1:15pm. Next meeting will be late September. Ali will be sending a Doodle email out with possible dates for next meeting.