

Fort Sisseton Commission Meeting
March 17, 2023- Virtual Meeting

The Fort Sisseton Commission met via Teams on March 17, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 11:14am. Commission members present were Casey Weismantel, Doug Eidahl, Calvin Hove, Chuck Vrchota, Bill Hoskins, JoAnn Hawkinson, Rosie Smith, Bruce Prins, Kirk Jones and Todd Garry. GFP personnel present were Al Nedved, Ali Tonsfeldt, Willy Collignon, Lori Skadsen, Jeff Van Meteren, and Connie Leschisin. Present for the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation were Kristina Coby. Present for Confluence were Lyle Pudwill, Jon Jacobson, and Amanda Wigen. Present for South Dakota Tourism was Calvin Bloomendahl. Minutes taken by Ali Tonsfeldt.

AGENDA ITEMS

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

MOTION BY BILL SECOND BY KIRK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AS TYPED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FOUNDATION REPORT

The Foundation report was presented.

Kristina gave an updated financial report with no major events occurring since last meeting.

MOTION BY TODD SECOND BY KIRK TO APPROVE THE FOUNDATION REPORT. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

Per request of Bruce, updated contact information for the Commission was handed out along with who was on what committee.

Ali gave updates on the following events:

Ghost Investigation: had a net income of \$2,871.67. Ali is looking at changing a few things up with two different options on length of investigation, adding another group of investigators and maybe not having a meal.

Haunted Fort: net income of \$1,602.56. Paid attendance through the maze 347, unpaid attendance through the maze (parents of the younger kids) 103.

Frontier Christmas: Concessions net income was \$420.63. Numbers were down this year due to illness and the number of events occurring that weekend. We had the Milbank Boy Scouts assist with serving and helping throughout the park. Corrine donated 200 Lefsa for sale at the Concessions.

Ali gave an update on the Adjutant building with new windows, fixing plaster, and cracks. Tuckpointing contract has been given out to Stand McDaniel who will start this spring/summer when the snow is gone. Looking at getting the Americorp Group to assist with the new boardwalk. Ali also received a Deadwood Grant to assist with purchasing of new windows in the COQ, Dr. Residence, Hospital and Adjutant Building.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

NEW BUSINESS

Ali gave an overview of the summer events and had email out the 2023 calendar of events. Ali also gave an update on the three interns that will be starting in May.

Ali gave an update on the Smithsonian Exhibit which will be here May 4 or 5. The Public Grand Opening for the exhibit is tentatively planned for May 7 at 2:30pm. Ali has asked local schools to be part of the writing of what they like about their town and what rural means to them. Sisseton 3rd graders have participated. The monthly movies have been a big hit averaging 50 plus people each time. Ali would like to have a photography contest in

which monetary prizes will be given out for the three categories: What does Rural mean to you? What do you like about your Community? What does Community mean to you?

MOTION BY TODD TO GIVE \$100 FIRST PLACE IN EACH CATEGORY, \$50 FOR SECOND PLACE IN EACH CATEGORY AND \$25 FOR THIRD PLACE IN EACH CATEGORY. MOTION SECONDED BY BRUCE, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ali gave an update on the festival including some of the new activities she has been working on. It was agreed to do the Chuckwagon fundraiser meal again Friday evening. Cost will be \$25 plate for 13 and older, \$13 for 6-12 and 5 and under free.

Festival sponsor forms and letters were sent to all Commissioners. Everyone was encouraged to help get sponsors for the 2023 Historical Festival. Last year sponsors brought in \$4,250 to assist with costs of the festival. Ali is asking that all sponsors forms be returned by April 15th so banners can be made.

Bruce brought up the idea of traveling to Fort Robinson, Fort Hartsuff and Fort Atkinson in Nebraska to get some ideas for the Fort.

Confluence presented the draft copy of the Master Plan to the Commission. This was the main focus of the meeting. Some of the concerns brought up were:

- The noise from the Event Lawn and bothering the neighbors
- Location of the maintenance yard and location of the park manager house
- Questioning the aspect of being a 501©3
- Would like to eliminate the north drop off and shortening the south parking lot. Remove the second drive from the parking lot.
- Wants to make sure that we are not losing the reason why people go to the fort in the first place.
- Would like to keep both campground to the North and to the South. Worried about disconnect with a campground to the South.
- Wondering if it would be best to focus on campground first to help increase of exposure, then move onto the rest of the Fort expansion.
- Wondering about green initiative such as charging stations, Wi-Fi, etc.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 2:30pm BY BRUCE SECOND BY TODD DUE TO WEATHER. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. ALI WILL SEND OUT A DOODLE FOR A MEETING IN LATE APRIL, EARLY MAY.