

Fort Sisseton Commission Meeting  
October 28, 2024  
Minutes  
Noon in Library/Schoolhouse

The Fort Sisseton Commission met October 28, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm by Chairperson Bruce Prins. Commission members present were Kirk Jones, Jim Patrick, Bruce Prinz, Bill Hoskins, Casey Weismantel, Doug Eidahl, G Todd Garry, JoAnn Hawkinson, Rosie Smith, Calvin Hove, and Linda Quade. GFP personnel present were Willy Collignon, Al Nedved, Shawn Hendricks, Calvin Bloemendaal, and Ali Tonsfeldt. Minutes taken by Connie Leschisin.

**Meeting called to order at 12:10 pm by Bruce.**

AGENDA ITEMS

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS TYPED WAS TABLED BECAUSE ONLY THE INCOME WAS PRESENTED. Ali and Willy will be looking to find a better way to report finances.

CALVIN H, CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTED BRUCE PRINZ AGREED TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRPERSON, AND KIRK JONES AS VICE CHAIR. MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THESE OFFICERS BY CALVIN H AND SECOND BY TODD. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

Ali gave an update on past projects: Roofing projects – COQ complete and Hospital waiting on contract, Basement of the new Residence is in place with expected house move on October 31 (SHPO test holes revealed very little on site), Sewer system is failed and will either need a 5' lift on the current location or a new one installed on the other side of the highway with a central lift station, Tuck point – only building left is OQ, Campground electric pedestals have been installed.

Music at the Fort Exhibit has a goal completion for Historic Festival 2025. The Music Museum is assisting with some of the cleaning of instruments.

Ali gave an update on past events:

Harvest Festival – 805 wristbands distributed, with another 200 attending the night kite flying. The Commission made \$94 at the penny press on that one day. Ali suggests that new uniforms are in order as they were used during the baseball game.

Eco Ed Day – run by Marshall County Conservation District for 70 some 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

School Tours – three schools of 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Ghost Investigation -37 paid tickets (at \$100/ticket), with 8 investigators. Five GFP employees were spread between the groups.

Haunted Fort – Ali presented the Event Reporting for the three events (Friday night, Saturday daytime, and Saturday night). Participation for the three events totaled 769 (162+316+291), with Commission total revenue at \$3,374 (698+951+1725)

Masterplan – Bruce met with Michael Rohl District 1 representative about a 4-5 year project, not 25 million all at once.

Casey took Doug's information and put it into a pledge form. Form was reviewed and suggestions made such as adding a 'Recruit' category for lesser dollar amounts. Still working on how to do electronic donations.

Checks should be made out to the SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation with 'Fort Sisseton Master Plan' in the memo. Decided that mailing checks to the Fort would be better so that they can be recorded, and a copy kept for the Commission. MOTION TO APPROVE THE DONOR FORM AS AMMENDED BY BILL AND SECOND BY CALVIN H. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Getting an architectural drawing of the Visitor Center is a priority. Todd reached out to Les Rowland at LLC in Sioux Falls and passed around the information he received.

A review of the bylaws was done with the decision to leave them as written.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

#### NEW BUSINESS

*Upcoming Events* – Murder Mystery Dinner has been cancelled.

Frontier Christmas – December 14 from 10 - 4. Discussion about changing Commissioners meal from sandwich to soup/chili, and from \$5 to free will since profits have only been about \$200.

Agreeing to bringing a roaster of chili were JoAnn, Todd, and Ali. Willy noted that staff shouldn't be donating food, so Kirk will provide meat, and Rosie cash. Chris (Kirk's wife) will provide cookies. Bottled water will be available. Anticipate feeding 250.

Spirits with the Spirits – idea being worked on in cooperation with Britton Community Theatre where for timed entrance tickets, people get a drink and a story in each of the buildings. This is still a work in progress but thinking about doing it during 'cabin fever month'.

Festival 2025 – working on getting a traveling exhibit.

**Upcoming meeting February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Darla from the Foundation returned an email reporting today's assets total \$79,964.60. Bruce suggested the Commission help with the architect plans for the masterplan.

Planning Committee includes Bill, Doug, and Calvin H.

Nominating Committee includes Chuck, Todd, and Calvin H.

Northern State theatre department is closing, but it shouldn't impact NFP in July.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY BILL SECOND BY CASEY. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.