

Board of Directors Meeting

Missouri River Historical Development Inc.

Holiday Inn, Sioux City, Iowa
Jan. 26, 2015

Members present: Dave Bernstein, Larry Clausen, Carolyn Ellwanger, Ron French, Larry Jensen, Treyla Lee-Chavis, Jim Marshall, Bruce Miller, Mark Monson, Steve Ponder, Jackie Smith, Doug Young

Members absent: Linda Linduski, Dale Tigges, Charese Yanney, Gloria Welte

Others present: Barb Orzechowski, attorney; Curt Beason, attorney; Ashlee French, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino; Marcia Poole, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center; Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City Journal; Rachael Krause, KCAU

Mark Monson opened the meeting.

Treyla Lee-Chavis made a motion to approve the December minutes. Doug Young seconded. Motion carried.

Carolyn Ellwanger made a motion to accept the agenda. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried.

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center: Marcia Poole presented the facility's 2015 budget, requesting \$535,000 for operating expenses. She noted that the center would be adding a Thomas Jefferson animatronic to draw visitors. Jim Marshall asked if she had factored in salary increases for staff. Poole said there was a 2 percent increase, even though the request was not larger than it has been in past years.

Jim Marshall made a motion to approve the budget request. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried.

Hard Rock update: Ashlee French showed board members some of the unique pins available at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. She said there will be an event for pin collectors at the end of the month. She also said staff is planning a big summer of concerts, including entertainment for RAGBRAI. Business, as well, has been good.

Closed session: Carolyn Ellwanger made a motion to go into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the government body in that litigation, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1) (c) Jim Marshall seconded.

In a roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion. (Member absent and not voting: Linda Linduski, Dale Tigges, Charese Yanney, Gloria Welte.)

Closed session discussion followed.

Larry Jensen made a motion to come out of closed session. Carolyn Ellwanger seconded. In a roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion. (Member absent and not voting: Linda Linduski, Dale Tigges, Charese Yanney, Gloria Welte.)

Monson said there were no action items as a result of the closed session.

Auditor selection: Ron French made a motion to retain Henjes, Conner and Williams, P.C., as MHRD's auditor. Treyla Lee-Chavis seconded. Motion carried.

Committee appointments: Mark Monson distributed a list of committee appointments for 2015. Jim Marshall made a motion to approve the committees. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried.

2015 Budget: Mark Monson presented a \$1,790,000 budget for 2015, which includes funds for grants, special projects, holiday gifts, scholarships, executive committee expenses and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center operating funds approved earlier. Steve Ponder made a motion to approve the budget. Jim Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

Monson said he and Carolyn Ellwanger would meet with Siouxland schools regarding the scholarship program.

Cancelled meeting: There will be no February meeting since the rescheduled January date was so close. The next meeting will be in March.

Economic Development: Dave Bernstein provided an update on the website development MRHD funded to attract workers to Siouxland. Results will be seen shortly; as the website rolls out, it's likely a local partner will be sought. Other economic development projects will be detailed in the near future.

There being no further business, Jackie Smith made a motion to adjourn. Carolyn Ellwanger seconded. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Bruce Miller
secretary