

Board of Directors Meeting

Missouri River Historical Development Inc.

Holiday Inn, Sioux City, Iowa

May 4, 2015

Members present: Larry Clausen, Carolyn Ellwanger, Ron French, Larry Jensen, Treyla Lee, Jim Marshall, Bruce Miller, Mark Monson, Steve Ponder, Jackie Smith, Dale Tigges, Charese Yanney, Doug Young

Members absent: Dave Bernstein, Linda Linduski, Gloria Welte

Others present: Barb Orzechowski, attorney; Curt Beason, attorney; Ashlee French, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino; Dave Dreeszen, Sioux City Journal.

Mark Monson opened the meeting.

Jim Marshall made a motion to approve the April minutes. Doug Young seconded. Motion carried.

Carolyn Ellwanger made a motion to accept the agenda. Treyla Lee seconded. Motion carried.

Visitors items: Ashlee French detailed activity at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. She said the facility would sponsor college scholarships, giving employees first opportunity to advantage of the monies. The organization will also sponsor a RAGBRAI concert, Fridays on the Promenade, the Farmers Market, a Color Me Rad run and a Siouland Youth Concert. Employees also are encouraged to have volunteer hours at area nonprofits; if organizations need workers, they can make a connection through French.

Closed session: Ron French 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) Charese Yanney seconded.

In a roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion. (Members absent and not voting: Dave Bernstein, Linda Linduski, Gloria Welte.)

Closed session discussion followed.

Larry Clausen made a motion to come out of closed session. Larry Jensen seconded. In a roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion. (Members absent and not voting: Dave Bernstein, Linda Linduski, Gloria Welte.)

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

Lease: Mark Monson said MRHD needed to renew its lease with the city for the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center site. Dale Tigges made a motion to renew for 10 years. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried. Barb Orzechowski will handle the necessary paper work.

RAGBRAI: MRHD was asked to support RAGBRAI events in the coming months. Ron French made a motion to provide \$10,000 for a Main Stage sponsorship. Carolyn Ellwanger seconded. Motion carried.

Board changes: Barb Orzechowski told the board that it had made many of the changes requested by Iowa Racing and Gaming. She asked members to look at the list and see what yet needed to be done. Ron French questioned concern about continuity on the board, particularly since it took a period of time to deal with potential operators and locations for a land-based casino. Curt Beason said MRHD could create an advisory committee to help provide continuity, hire an executive director or look at the possibility of reappointing past members after they've had a term out.

Doug Young, chair of the nominating committee, said his group was waiting for names from the city and the Chamber of Commerce for future appointments. They have looked at potential candidates and will have nominations in July.

Doug Young made a motion to add Treyla Lee to the executive committee. Jim Marshall seconded. Motion carried.

May Grants: Steve Ponder, chair of the May grants committee, said more than \$721,000 was requested. His committee recommends funding 41 grants at \$349,439.12. Charese Yanney made a motion to increase the grant amount to accommodate that increase. Dale Tigges seconded. Motion carried.

Ron French made a motion to approve the 41 grants. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried. They will be announced at a news conference this month.

Board members then discussed the need to revisit the grant levels. Large grants would be \$250,000 and above; middle-sized grants would go from \$10,000 to \$250,000 and smaller grants (such as the May ones) would be \$10,000 or less. The board will continue to discuss the funding levels and granting periods.

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center: Mark Monson said field trips are in full gear; schools are visiting at an impressive rate. Thirty-nine visits were slated for May alone.

There being no further business, Dale Tigges made a motion to adjourn. Charese Yanney seconded. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,
Bruce Miller
secretary