

Board of Directors Meeting

Missouri River Historical Development Inc.

Holiday Inn, Sioux City, Iowa

Oct. 5, 2015

Members present: Carolyn Ellwanger, Ron French, Larry Jensen, Treyla Lee, Linda Linduski, Bruce Miller, Mark Monson, Steve Ponder, Jackie Smith, Dale Tigges, Doug Young.

Interim members present: Mike Collett, Bob DeSmidt, Roxanne Gould, Scott Pack, Dakin Schultz.

Members absent: Dave Bernstein, Larry Clausen, Stacy Harmelink, Gerardo Hernandez, Jim Marshall, Gloria Welte, Charese Yanney.

Others present: Barb Orzechowski, attorney; Curt Beason, attorney; Ashlee French, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino; Steve VanOtterloo, Division of Criminal Investigation

Mark Monson opened the meeting.

Ron French made a motion to accept the agenda; Carolyn Ellwanger seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Ponder made a motion to approve the September minutes. Treyla Lee seconded. Motion carried.

Audit: Treyla Lee made a motion to accept the auditors' report presented during the September meeting. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried.

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino: Ashlee French detailed the awards the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino won from Casino Player magazine and from the "Best of Gaming" competition. She said a new director of finance has begun work; staff members have attended the G2E convention and will introduce new slot machines to the facility. She detailed special events during the coming months and the nonprofit collaborations that they have made.

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) Ron French seconded.

In a roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion. (Members absent and not voting: Dave Bernstein, Larry Clausen, Stacy Harmelink, Gerardo Hernandez, Jim Marshall, Gloria Welte, Charese Yanney.)

Closed session discussion followed.

Treylla Lee made a motion to come out of closed session. Linda Linduski seconded. In a roll-call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion. (Members absent and not voting: Dave Bernstein, Larry Clausen, Stacy Harmelink, Gerardo Hernandez, Jim Marshall, Gloria Welte, Charese Yanney.)

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

Festival of Trees: Treylla Lee asked if we would be supporting the Festival of Trees this year. There appeared to be concensus. Mark Monson said the issue would be discussed at next month's meeting.

Grant Review: Dale Tigges, chair of the large grants committee, presented the finding of the group (Dave Bernstein, Ron French, Treylla Lee, Jackie Smith and Tigges). They have earmarked \$1,012,500 for approval. Dale Tigges made a motion to approve the grants. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried. They will be presented Oct. 15 at the Betty Strong Encounter Center.

THE GRANTS:

Woodbury County Conservation, \$75,000; City of Anthon, \$50,000; Correctionville Pool Committee, \$125,000; Camp High Hopes, \$150,000; Center for Siouxland, \$100,000; Boys Club, \$100,000; Goodwill, \$25,000; Sanford Center, \$37,500; Sioux City Noon Sertoma Club, \$25,000; Sioux City Parks and Recreation, \$200,000; Crittenton Center, \$25,000; Bishop Heelan High School, \$100,000.

Finances: Because we've switched to a July 1- June 30 fiscal year, Mark Monson said we need to fill in the budget with a half-year addition. The list includes: \$75,000 for executive committee expenses; \$267,500 for the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center; \$150,000 for scholarships and \$250,000 for May grants, for a total of \$742,500. This would get us through June 30, 2016. We would also work to get the reserve back to \$1.25 million. Ron French made a motion to approve the changes, including an increase to \$1 million for special grants. Carolyn Ellwanger seconded. Motion carried.

Bylaws: Mark Monson said we will address bylaws changes next month. He said Iowa Racing and Gaming is firm about two three-year terms with three years off before reappointment. Steve Ponder asked if we could add another committee – an advisory committee – that would allow us to have some continuity, particularly during the transition period. Curt Beason said he thought that would be possible. Monson said the idea of an advisory committee would be added to the agenda.

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center: Mark Monson said there were lots of activities at the center. He included a list with the month's handouts. He said Humanities Iowa would like to give \$10,000 to the center for the President Jefferson animatronic. Board members discussed the donation and agreed the decision should be made by the Interpretive Center board.

December meeting: Mark Monson said the annual meeting will be held at the Hard Rock and would include dinner. Jackie Smith expressed interest in announcing the Holiday grant recipient(s) at that time.

DCI: Steve VanOtterloo said that some background checks did not cost as much as others. As a result, MRHD may have money in its account for future use.

There being no further business, Larry Jensen made a motion to adjourn. Steve Ponder seconded. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,
Bruce Miller
secretary