

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Brad Penka, Jean Stramel, Charma Craven, Lisa Goodheart, Todd Goodheart, Dan Steffen, Kelli Orender, Michelle Skurkis, Janet Kuhn, Neil Unrein, Kris Heinze, Linda Crowder, Christina Hayes

1. **Call to Order** – Brad called the meeting to order at 10:15 and had everyone introduce themselves.
2. **Call for Additions to the Agenda** – no additions or changes.
3. **Approval of Minutes** for September 19, 2024 provided by Kris Heinze
  - Janet Kuhn motioned to approve and Neil 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – provided by Jean Stramel
  - \$2,000 off in QuickBooks as always - \$36,269.28 is the bank balance currently. We will do an adjusted entry at the end of the year.
  - Profit loss is \$246.17 in the good for 2024.
  - \$100 receipt is for a hard drive that was purchased, she found the receipt.
  - There is also a PayPal report that needs to be looked into and shifted to our account.
  - InKind is going in as income but NOT coming out as an expense, so Linda will help Jeanie get that all in order. – She put it in under Fees/Technical
  - Linda also asked about the Grant option it's talked about in the minutes but not in the budget, Brad explained that we have NOT received the dollars yet.
  - Kris Motioned and Charma 2<sup>nd</sup> – Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Chairman's Report** - Brad Penka
  - **KCAIC Grant** – Kansas arts commission grant an operating grant to use for creating a video for the coalition. Brad will pull it up to look after lunch. \$2,387 – Most difficult grant Brad had to deal with. Had to have a meeting, then changes, do a quiz with certificate.
  - **Recent Events** –
    1. Rush County has been very busy – 150 Anniversary Celebration – with 16 events and one to go for this years celebration! Getting a new roof and it reignited some efforts for events and fundraising.
    2. Liebenthal – event last Sunday and reopened the school that had not been opened in 25 years – the rectory had been sold – working to get it on the National Register of Historic Places.
    3. Post Rock Fence Outside LaCrosse – Coalition helped preserve with the KDOT to tear out a fence of one of the best post rock fences.... Perfectly restored and was going to be torn up- and she said no and we helped with the Historical Society that helped with support and got KDOT to stop.

1. Volga German SAC (150<sup>th</sup>) – 1 year long programming starting Feb, 22 of 2026 – Kelli mentioned we could use Marketing Grant to apply to help with that.
2. Cottonwood Connection – Jon Pancost did a PBS show for ½ hour to do the stonework. Kris suggested to share the link for that show.
3. Mancato Threshing Bee – Neil reported that it was awesome for the field events.
4. BOD Markers – Neil is working on the Russell County- all 31 are located and set exactly where they are, Ellis County has been done at Phillips Ranch. Linda suggested a ribbon cutting or media event. He is also building a tour for them as well.

## 2. Committee Reports:

### . Marketing/Events

- . 2025 Events – Brad asked the group on what events we want to be involved in. We should get an events list created for the calendar!
  1. Jeanie suggested a show at the Hays Library for that program or watch party!
  2. Kelli suggested that we try to get involved in “Global Cuisine & Culture Week which is March 16-22, 2025! – we could tie for the movie as well as suggested by Jeanie. Application due by Dec. 14, 2024.
    1. Charma motioned to proceed, Christina 2<sup>nd</sup> – motion passed.
  3. Threshing Bee in Mankato– July 19 & 20<sup>th</sup> in Macato
  4. Wilson Czech Fest – July 26
  5. Post Rock Festival in Lincoln – Aug 30
  6. Barbed Wire Fest – May 1-4
  7. Linda suggested the speakers event in Russell at the Dream Theatre to find someone on Volga German speaker. 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July or August.
  8. Adams Apple Fest in Lucas – Aug 23 or 30
  9. Craftique in Luray – Oct. 18
  10. Bricks, Brocs and BBQ in Russell– Oct. 4
  11. Hertzog Fest in Victoria – Aug 9<sup>th</sup>
- . Social Media Schedule for 2025 –
  1. Christina had a program that worked in the past, Linda will help drive it. She can give a game plan and share the “scheduling platform”
  2. Everyone was instructed to pick a month – Linda and Christina will get it sent out.
- . 2026 Quarry to Glory - Volga German Sesquicentennial in Ellis County – Brad brought it up to bring a tentative plan so we can get it on a preliminary schedule.
  1. There are several dates set for mini events – The 1<sup>st</sup> part of August is out because of the parade and Neil is willing to help

plan it again. It was discussed that there are A LOT of churches to cover so it might need to be split into two groups. Brad and Neil have the full schedule of what is planned already.

2. Lisa motioned to plan at least one bus tour for this event in 2026, Kris 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and motion carried.
  - i. Jean suggested a Mini Tour in Lincoln County that can be focused on and planned by Kris and Jean. Neil motioned, Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and motion carried. Jean and Kris are the committee for that and will bring back a proposal in January.
- . **Education/Preservation** – Jean suggested that we write a grant to get the bits and pieces of the kits together to get this plan rolling with the curriculum. What we have is a great start but it needs some work.
  1. Committee is Charma, Jean and Lisa – they can feed some ideas to Linda.
  2. Brad is going to have the tools 3D printed.
  3. Flint Hills Discovery Center is a great tool for training the teachers and
- . **Preservation Award** – Jean showed the photos of the presentation and awards on Facebook. We have only done it for 2 years.
  1. **Preservation Grants** - Charma is getting asked on how they can get money to preserve the limestone buildings. Historical Society
  2. Linda suggested a checklist on what to do if you want to preserve a building.
  3. Sarah Bloom or Kelly Hansen would be a great contract for that as Dept. of Commerce – Office of Rural Prosperity
- . **Grants** –
  1. We can look at options
- . **Membership / Networking**
  1. Membership letter and update and get it taking care
  2. We need to look at the membership list and make sure there aren't a lot of returns,
  3. Stick with official address – Christina will send out.
    1. Jean to pull the check and put voucher into membership and include the check number onto the form. Then Linda will input and send out the Thank yous and Membership Card
    2. Linda will do a follow up as well in February.
2. **Break for Lunch** - 12:00
3. **Reopened the meeting** at 12:43pm
4. **Unfinished Business:**
  - . Documentary Projects:
    - a. – Brad showed the video and we have the funds to move forward. The group really would love to have it continue.
      1. Scope of work should be suggested and an estimate is what we would love back. We would love a teaser video and a 25 minute video.
        1. We loved these topics included in the video we previewed:

1. Interviews with Industry Players
2. Demonstration and Featured projects
3. Historical Backgrounds of Limestone and it's Place in Kansas Culture.

- . **Post Rock Gift Items** – Book ends, Raw Materials are also available. We should move forward with Kelly Palmer.
- a. **Equipment Purchase** – Rob wanted equipment to make the items, but it is suggested that we don't do that. Motion made by Christina to NOT purchase the equipment, Neil 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried. We will move forward with Kelly for making the products.

## 2. New Business:

- . **Brochure Contract 2025**- Travel Brochure Distribution (Andy and Sherry Pinkley are the new owners) will now be \$600 – Christina Motions to renew the contract for 2025, Janet 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – Motion Passed.
    1. **Brochures reprinted?** We currently have 1,500 left! Northwestern Printers in Hays, Golden Belt Community Printing in Great Bend, Great Bend Tribune- Brush Art Crop in in Downs – Kris and Christina will get quotes and move forward on it. We will bring the quotes back to the January meeting.
      1. Marketing committee can go through to share -
  - . **Budget** – We looked at the 2025 Budget worksheet and adjusted the numbers for the new year. The Budget is set for \$30, 877 for 2024.
    1. Chrstitina motion to accept the budget for this year, Janet 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
  - . **2025 Meeting Schedule** – Jan. 30 in Great Bend,
  - . **Independent Contractor Agreement** – will sit down with Linda to discuss at some point and report back to the board.
2. **Other Business** – none to report.
  3. **Next Meeting** - Jan. 30 in Great Bend
  4. **Adjournment** – Meeting Adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Submitted by C.Hayes – KPRLC Secretary