

Minutes for July 15, 2024 Board Meeting

Present at the Board meeting were Dean O'Neill, Tim Trudnowski, Bill Taylor, Steve Joyner, Steve Fuller, Don Golde, Bill Zidel, Dave Hillard and John Nemnich.

Meeting was called to order at 5:09 on Dean O'Neill's GoTo Meeting account. The meeting was recorded as we are short a secretary, the Board was made aware that the meeting would be recorded.

Bill Zidel had sent out an email dated July 14, laying out the agenda. The agenda was followed so the discussion started with Dean O'Neill addressing the first three items of the agenda.

Dean O'Neill: - Progress on the new VDP – The updated VDP will be available by November 2024. 100 to 120 new files consisting of but not limited to, new photo collections, maps drawings, etc. The current price point is \$299 however Dean posed the question of what it should be. He asked the Board to consider what it should be, and discuss it at one of the two September convention Board meetings. He explained the expenses.

Status of the current convention - We looked at the current numbers of rooms and the number of registered guests. At that time in July the registrations were a little slow however everything was on time. There would be no layout tours as their locations were not conducive to tours. Don Golde explained the room status terminology explaining how many rooms had been rented and were available. There were 48 registered and 10 spouses.

The new NPRHA front end – The Board's previous action had provided \$13,000 for the update and it was on budget. Dean asked that people go out and look at it and at that time he provided a look at the new pages and that it had a fresh look. Jim and Paul, no last names will continue to update to keep the site fresh. Dean asked that the Board thank Kent Sullivan for his work.

Steve Fuller: The three organizations planning the 2025 St. Paul convention are making good progress. There is a preliminary budget for the convention and the board will talk about at the Board Meeting. There are already enough presenters. The hotel, aka headquarters is 4 blocks from the St. Paul station. There are requests for volunteers if they wish to work on the convention, Contact Steve Fuller. The room rate for downtown is very reasonable at \$125 per night. They will be arranging a train ride and corresponding bus trip. That will occur the Monday before the convention. Duluth has been contacted as well as the county to arrange for SD-45 3617 to be brought to the convention and reside at the St. Paul depot. There had been a connection at train days to BNSF to be part of the convention. Steve has made initial contact and they are waiting for a response.

Bill Zidel: Bill Zidel is transcribing the recording of this meeting into word format because he is looking for a Secretary for the NPRHA. The request has gone out to the extent that the NPRHA will provide a recorder and transcribing software to the next Secretary.

Bill Zidel/Dave Hillard: Dave Hillard has been the NPRHA Treasurer for the past 10 years. He has done an outstanding job and we are looking for a replacement. Dave was to leave the

Board in 2024 however given we will need transition time to a new Treasurer he has agree to stand for election in 2024 and if the transition is successful by the end of 2025 he can resign. I could not formally have Dave working with John and perform transactions with the Bank without formal approval from the Board. I asked the Board for a motion to have John Nemnich (Board Member) work with Dave Hillard in the transition of Dave Hillard duties to John Nemnich. I asked for a motion to recognize John Nemnich as the potential replacement for Dave Hillard, Treasurer of the NPRHA. That John work with Dave in understanding the duties of the NPRHA Treasurer and eventually replace Dave. I ask the Board formalize this request in the form of a motion and vote on it so the NPRHA may present this as formal approval to the Bank providing service to the NPRHA. Bill Taylor provided the motion, Don Golde seconded it and Steve Fuller restated and clarified the motion and the intent. The vote to approve was unanimous. Dave additionally asked the Board, if they had an issue with him using an online version of QuickBooks to work with John instead of his desktop version. The Board was unanimous in its approval to use the online version.

Bill Zidel and Board: There was a discussion concerning the time that a president should serve. Bill Zidel asked that should it be 2 or 3 years, eventually stating that 3 years should be the limit. Bill Taylor stated that it should be what the Bylaws say and if that is 3 years then there is no need to ask the Membership just stick to the 3 years rule. Bill Zidel has served 10 and that would not happen in the future and the term should revert back to 3 years as President.

Dean O'Neill: Dean drove a conversation about who will be the next president and the Conversation came around to Tim Trudnowski. Tim made the point that Bill Zidel has approached him in September of last year and that in listening to Tim explain his previous employment he is qualified. Dean made the case as to how the process works, heavy lifting and such, and who does what so the work effort is shared. Tim should seriously think about being president and let us know at the Board meeting so we came move accordingly. Dean pointed out that he and Kent will be standing for President in the future so Tim has plenty of support and that when most people took the Presidents job in the past, it was all new to them. Bill Zidel will continue to work on revising the Convention process and procedures.

Dean O'Neill: Dean asked the Board members who term expire this year, if they plan to run again. Dave Hillard, Don Gode, Steve Fuller, Bill Taylor all will stand again for two years terms for their respective Board Seats.

Dean O'Neill: Dean asked that the following items be put on the Board agendas for the September Convention Meetings, NPRHA relationship the Jackson Street archive Host MTM. The office of the NPRHA president and the VDP pricing.

Adjournment: Dean O'Neill called for the adjournment of the meeting and Don Golde seconded. The vote was unanimous at 6:01 PM.