

Nebraska Travel Association
May 14, 2024
Minutes

Chairman Anjanette Bonham called the May 14, 2024, membership meeting of the Nebraska Travel Association to order at 6:52 p.m. Board members present were Regina Osburn, Steve Maly, Karli Schulz, Traci Jeffrey and Kerri Rempp. Director Wendy Kreuser was also present.

Membership present: Stacie Wilken, Visit Norfolk, David Fudge, Nebraskaland Days, Carol Schlegel, McCook, Dana Jelinek, Grand Island, Connie Endicott, Blue River Rest Area, Clark Koltermon, Blue River Rest Area/Seward, Karen Hurst, Stuhr Museum, Sheila Jenkinson, Growing Small Town Nebraska Podcast, Stacie Rollyer, Nebraska Junk Jaunt, Karen Schlautman, Columbus, Brenda Leisy, Scottsbluff, Karla Niedan-Streeks, Gering, Theresa Grape, Columbus, Ashley Olson, Willa Cather Foundation, Kendra Mitchell, Cheyenne County, Bev Wellnitz, Sheridan County, Linda Lacy, Calinda's Pot Shop, Linda Teahon, Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway, Emma Ebitto, Nebraska Game and Parks, John Ricks, Visit Nebraska, Alisha Simonson, Visit Nebraska, Michael Collins, Visit Nebraska, Brad Mellema, Grand Island, Tracie Simpson, Visit Lincoln, Jeff Maul, Visit Lincoln, Fred Uhe, Sarpy County, Heather Heinemann, Lexington

Grand Island Tourism Director Brad Mellema welcomed the group to Grand Island. Michael Collins of Visit Nebraska introduced the travel counselors for the rest stops.

David Fudge moved and Regina Osburn seconded approving the minutes. Motion carried.

Traci Jeffrey presented the financial report. The budget for the fiscal year shows a net income of \$97. There is \$24,270 in the account and \$44,000 in total assets.

Jeff Maul moved and Carol Schlegel seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Anjanette Bonham provided a legislative update. Half of the seats in the Unicameral are up for election in 2024. This year's session saw tourism dodge a number of bullets, including an effort to combine tourism and the Department of Economic Development, a bill to transfer tourism funds to DED and an effort to raid county lodging tax funds. Leadership of NETA met earlier in the day to discuss the challenges ahead. It will be vital to form and enhance collaborative relationships with DED, the Nebraska Tourism Commission, Governor Pillen and the industry at large. A strategic plan for the upcoming session will be formulated in the coming weeks and months.

Traci Jeffrey's term on the board has expired, and Anjanette Bonham thanked her for her service. David Fudge moved and Brad Mellema seconded to appointing Steve Maly and Regina Osburn for a second term and for adding Fred Uhe and Theresa Grape to the board. Motion carried.

Karla Niedan-Streeks moved and Linda Lacy seconded to approve the following slate of officers: Steve Maly, chair, Kerri Rempp, vice president, Regina Osburn, treasurer, Karli Schulz, secretary. Motion carried.

Steve Maly thanked Anjanette Bonham for leading NETA.

Regina Osburn moved and Theresa Grape seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried.