

**RED WILLOW COUNTY VISITORS COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**3:00 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom, Keystone Business Center**

**Minutes**

**Presiding:** Daniel Stramel  
**Present:** Tyler Loop, Bill Lesko, Kerri Unger, Andrea Harms and Carol Schlegel  
**Absent:**  
**Guest:** Mitch Gross

**Call to Order:** **Daniel Stramel** called the Red Willow County Visitors Committee (RWCVC) meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**Open Meeting Act:** Open Meeting Act was available for review.

**Minutes:** There was a motion made by **Bill** and seconded by **Daniel** to approve the December 2023 minutes. Motion carried 4/0.

**Financial Status:** Balance in Promotion Fund as of December 31, 2023 = \$ 67,845.67  
Balance in Improvement Fund as of December 31, 2023 = \$ 245,566.24  
Balance in Promotion Fund Budget as of Dec 31, 2023 = \$ 107,389.65  
Balance in Improvement Fund Budget as of Dec 31, 2023= \$ 280,623.00

**Old Business:** **Committee Vacancy – Andrea Harms**, representing retail and Farrell’s Pharmacy and Hallmark Store was welcomed to the Committee, pending appointment by the Red Willow County Commissioners.

**Director’s Report:** **Prairie Chicken Dance Tours – Carol** reported that the reservation portal was to open at 9 a.m. Central Time on Tuesday, January 2. After a small glitch when the portal did not open at the appointed time, the situation was rectified and reservations came in as anticipated. The general population tours are 1/3 full with reservations being taken for six (6) hours so we are well on our way to another full season.

**New Business:** **Improvement Grant Request**

- YMCA of McCook – Mitch Gross  
Capital Improvement Project Amount Requested: \$25,000.00

**Mitch Gross**, CEO of the YMCA of McCook, presented an improvement grant application, highlighting the improvements that are being planned through this \$16 million project. Fund raising is on schedule with \$13 million being raised through the end of 2023 which included a \$5 million grant from Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Some of the emphasis of his presentation was to highlight the ability for basketball, volleyball and pickle ball tournaments to be held in McCook with the increased availability of courts. This combined with the refurbished

aquatic center has the potential for an increase in locally held swim meets. After **Mitch's** departure from the meeting, discussion was held on the merits of the grant application. A motion was made by **Tyler** and seconded by **Bill** to approve the grant request in the amount of \$25,000.00. Motion carried 5/0.

**Expired Terms – Kerri Unger's** term expired on December 31, 2023. She has agreed to serve another term which will expire on December 31, 2027.

**Correspondence**

- **2024 Red Willow Rodeo Royalty Pageant Sponsorship – Carol** shared a letter concerning sponsoring the Red Willow Rodeo Royalty pageant. In the past few years we have provided the insulated lunch bags for the contestants and visiting royalty in support of the pageant. There has been no financial contribution provided by the Visitors Committee. The Committee agreed to continue in this manner in the future.

**Approval of Claims:** The following claims were submitted for payment:

Claim Summary – Promotion Fund 0990 879

Visa Statement

• 2-1751 Adobe Subscription		64.49
2-1751 HonorboundIT Service Plan		25.00
Carol Schlegel		
• 2-6000 December Wages	3,675.00	
• 2-6000 2023 Bonus	4,410.00	8,085.00
Miles Partnership		
• 2-6030 VisitNebraska.com: Annual Banners	1,500.00	
• 2-6030 NTC: Travel Guide – ½ page	5,000.00	6,800.00
MEDC		
• 2-6040 Kyle Kinne – December Wages	1,084.03	
• 2-2000 Telephone and Internet-Jan/Mar	135.00	
• 2-6040 Rent, Utilities and Cleaning	<u>696.00</u>	<u>1,915.03</u>
		16,889.52

A motion was made by **Tyler** to pay the claims as presented. The motion was seconded by **Bill**. Motion carried 5/0

Meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Carol Schlegel