

RED WILLOW COUNTY VISITORS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

8:30 a.m.

2nd Floor Boardroom, Keystone Business Center

Minutes

- Presiding:** Daniel Stramel
Present: Tyler Loop, Bill Lesko, Kerri Unger and Carol Schlegel
Absent: Andrea Harms
Guest: Anna LaBay (McCook Gazette)
- Call to Order:** **Daniel Stramel** called the Red Willow County Visitors Committee (RWCVC) meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.
- Open Meeting Act:** Open Meeting Act was available for review.
- Minutes:** There was a motion made by **Tyler** and seconded by **Bill** to approve the August 6, 2024 minutes. Motion carried 4/0.
- Financial Status:**
- | | |
|--|---------------|
| Balance in Promotion Fund as of August 31, 2024 = | \$ 34,750.38 |
| Balance in Improvement Fund as of August 31, 2024 = | \$ 282,472.31 |
| Balance in Promotion Fund Budget as of Aug 31, 2024 = | \$ 113,654.24 |
| Balance in Improvement Fund Budget as of Aug 31, 2024= | \$ 345,816.66 |
| Petty Cash Fund Balance | \$ 66.04 |
- Old Business:**
- Promotion Grant Follow Up**
- Red Willow County Fair – Casey Donahew Concert
Dates: July 24-28, 2024 Amount Approved: \$ 2,500.00
After reviewing the follow up information provided, the consensus was that it was complete, and the grant funds will be processed.
- Facility Rental Grant Follow Up**
- CD Cutters August Cutting (Second Year)
Dates: August 9-11, 2024 Amount Approved: \$ 1,250.00
After reviewing the follow up information provided, the consensus was that it was complete, and the grant funds will be processed.
- Improvement Grant Follow Up**
- YMCA of McCook
Capital Improvement Project Amount Approved: \$25,000.00
After reviewing the progress report provided, the consensus was that it was complete, and the grant funds will be processed.
 - Heritage Hills Golf Course
Well Panels Project Amount Approved: \$ 7,500.00
After reviewing the follow up information provided, the consensus was that it was complete, and the grant funds will be processed.
 - High Plains Historical Society
Barnes/Sutton/FLW Display Amount Approved: \$18,220.00
Nanonation – Hardware Components \$ 7,854.00
Nanonation – 50% Software Development \$ 5,183.00
(Payment Requested Under Hardship Provision)
- Daniel** questioned the payment requested under the hardship provision in the grant application. The other Committee members confirmed that this

had been discussed during last month and that they were aware that the Historical Society did not have the means to pay the invoices and wait for reimbursement. Any invoices will be submitted directly to the Visitors Committee for payment. After reviewing the progress report provided, the consensus was that it was complete, and the grant funds will be processed.

Improvement Grant Request

- McCook All-Inclusive Playground Committee – Mariah Pierson
All-Inclusive Playground Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

Leslie Stramel identified a grant provided by **T-Mobile** for up to \$50,000 that seems to be tailor made for this project. **Daniel** forwarded the grant information to **Nate Schneider, Mariah Pierson, Linda Taylor** and **Carol**. He requested that **Carol** forward the information to the rest of the Committee.

Carol provided information she received from her inquiries to Holdrege and North Platte. Holdrege has had staff changes since their playground was built but thought that their combined Chamber/Visitors Bureau had only served as a collection point for donations. The North Platte playground is in Centennial Park on Leota, west of the Hospital. According to their donor board, Visit North Platte contributed at the Silver sponsor level which was \$1,000 to \$2,999. The Committee instructed **Carol** to contact **Mariah Pierson** to ask about sponsorship levels to see if there is an amount they felt was appropriate.

Director's Report: **TravelStorysGPS Update** – **Carol** reported that this is a project that has been ongoing for a couple of years. This a historical walking tour based on the current Heritage Square tour that is available on an app. There are 20 stops along Norris Avenue beginning at the depot to the south and ending at the Strunk Memorial. **Ronda Graff** wrote the scripts for the tour. **Cal Siegfried** will be providing the narration. **Carol** is compiling three (3) to five (5) photographs of each location, including colorized postcards when available and interior images for when the locations are not open. Unfortunately, the tour will not be available by Heritage Days but it will be by the end of the year.

This has already been paid for and includes some marketing materials. We will receive 250 rack cards, 25 posters or QR code stickers and a website plugin. Some additional marketing materials that **Ronda** and **Carol** have discussed are yard signs at each location to alert people of the tour's existence. This will be an additional cost that will be proposed later.

New Business: **Promotion Grant Request** - None
Facility Rental Grant Request - None

Other Business from the Committee: **Daniel** started a discussion about making another contribution to the YMCA Capital Improvement campaign now that it has entered the community phase of fundraising. The Committee instructed **Carol** to contact **Mitch Gross** to inquire as to if there is a deadline for the matching funds being provided by the Graff Charitable Foundation and

Community Hospital so that any further funding can be leveraged as much as possible.

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 DropBox Subscription	<u>119.88</u>	184.37
2-1751 HonorboundIT Service Plan		25.00
2-1012 MEDC – Printing – 02/07-08/15/2024		391.00
2-6040 MEDC – Intern Wages – July		750.11
2-6070 Red Willow County Fair Board		2,500.00
2-6070 CD Cutters August Cutting – August 9-11, 2024		<u>1,250.00</u>
		5,100.48

A motion was made by **Kerri** to pay the claims as presented and was seconded by **Tyler**. Motion carried 4/0

Claim Summary – Promotion Fund 0990 879

2-6000 July Wages		4,091.67
2-6070 YMCA of McCook		25,000.00
2-6070 Heritage Hills Golf Course		7,500.00
2-6070 Nanonation – Hardware Components – FLW Display		7,854.00
2-6070 Nanonation-50% Software Development-FLW Display		<u>5,183.00</u>
		49,628.67

A motion was made by **Tyler** to pay the claims as presented and was seconded by **Kerri**. Motion carried 4/0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol Schlegel