

DODGE CITY

Chapter

Minutes: Western Cattle Trail Association

January 25, 2024



*Boot
Hill
Resource
Center*



Present: in person, Keith Wondra, Mary Hendrix, Kathy and Mike Bell, Debbie Calhoun, Joel Herndon Conference Call: Gary and Margaret Kraisinger, Michael R. Grauer, Ron Wilson, Mike King

President Joel Herndon called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone who could attend in person or by way of a conference call.

There was a call to accept the minutes as written. Gary Kraisinger motioned to accept the minutes. Kathy Bell seconded the motion and all agreed. The treasurer, Joel Herndon, reported Dodge City Chapter \$4937.00, National has \$2200.00.

Because of a change of address the savings account had lost money. Joel was gracious enough to give \$100.00 to bring the account up to date. A call was made to accept the treasurer's report. Debbie Calhoun motioned to accept the report and it was seconded by Margaret Kraisinger. It passed.

Old Business: A discussion followed with Michael Grauer proposing that we partner with the Chisholm Trail for a combined event in Dodge City November 1 and 2 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Western Cattle Trail, This would be in conjunction with the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame, November 2. Ron Wilson said the Chisholm Trail voted to participate in the November Conference.

Ron also recognized the value in forming a Consortium to have interested cattle trail groups work together. Michael Grauer also recognized the advantage of working together with like minded organizations. Margaret Kraisinger said at one time there was a consortium but it drifted away. Gary and Margaret both feel it is a good idea and with their contacts in other organizations perhaps this group can work toward that goal.





A motion was called to formalize the goal of 2024 to establish a cattle trail consortium. Kathy Bell made the motion and it was seconded by Keith Wondra. It passed.

Michael Grauer felt we should plan to have the Kraisinger's do a presentation on their journey into the research of the Western and for people to be able to ask questions. It will be part of the November Conference.

The plan to have a western art show is still in the planning stage for November.

It was felt that we need to have a presence in the Dodge City Days event July 25-August 4. The Theme for this year's celebration is "Rooted in Legacy". It honors the hard working individuals, pioneers, cattle trail cowboys and farmers who built Dodge City. Keith Wondra said he is giving a presentation July 31 on Dodge City pioneer Ham Bell. Topics suggested included Adobe Walls, the Red River War, or to have an American Indian presenter. Discussion was to stay on the topic of cowboys and cattle trails. It was a suggestion to explore the battle between Wichita and Dodge City over who would get the cattle trade. Keith volunteered to speak on the subject.

Michael Grauer said he would like to speak at the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame dinner on the 150th anniversary of the Western Cattle Trail.

In New Business Ron Wilson reported he spoke with Representative Gary White from Ashland to introduce a proclamation to the Governor honoring the 150th anniversary of the Western Cattle Trail. Kraisinger and Michael Grauer will work on the wording and presentation. There has been no progress on including other states the trail went through in this proclamation.

Ron reported on House Bill 2476 that would require approval by legislation for any historic trail designation. This led to a discussion on the bill and how it has been linked to President Biden's 30x30 program. The consensus at the meeting was going forward with our proclamation and to honor history at the state and local level.



Michael Grauer has an exhibition at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City on the Western Cattle Trails' 150th anniversary with key places where trail markers are on display. This display is scheduled September 13, 2024 to the first week of January 2025.

A long time discussion and plan for a social media presence was discussed by media specialist and Wild West Podcast producer, Mike King. He outlined his services to build a website, Facebook page and newsletter. He would work with Kraisinger for any content accuracy. A motion was called to proceed with Mike and the development of social media presences, Kathy Bell made the motion and it was seconded by Keith Wondra. It passed unanimously.

Margaret suggested if there are contacts with magazines that some feature articles could be written about the Western and the 150th anniversary.

Sponsors and donations were discussed. Joel suggested he could do a wood plaque with barbed wire from a drift fence. Mike King suggested he would contact some local people but would need a budget. Mary and Kathy will work on a budget.

President Joel Herndon will take a leave of absences for a few months and Michael Grauer will take over the monthly meetings.



Next meeting Feb 22, 2024 4:00 at the Boot Hill Resource Center

Debbie Calhoun motioned to adjourn.

Mary Hendrix Secretary