



February Meeting

The February meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on February 11, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 15 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Connie & Mike Payton, John Randall, Jim McKeel, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Bryson Spahn, Rob McKnight, Don Richardson, Darrell Cave, Bob Capps, Ed Brinkmeyer, Jack Evans and Brian Carlson.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDlf_ezgw3UyQ

New Museum Hours

The Board of Directors of the Heart of the Heartlands held a special meeting prior to the general meeting on February 11. It was decided to expand our museum hours to a more regular schedule. Starting March 1, 2023, the complex will be open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. John Chambers has agreed to be on hand during these times. He will be present from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, which will allow time to get things prepared for the day and then to close things up at the end of the day. During the day, not only will John be there to attend to visitors, he will also be able to do things such as cataloging, taking inventory, general cleaning, and pursuing possible grant options for the organization. At this time, if John is not able to be present on a particular day, volunteers will be contacted to help cover the day. If you are interested in possibly helping out in this capacity let us know.

In other areas, the board discussed capital projects. Several of our outdoor items are in need of maintenance and repair. The board discussed what items would need to be addressed immediately versus those that could wait a few years. The idea is to build a list of a capital project to address each year. Membership was another area of discussion. We are in need of new members to help carry the organization into the next decade and hopefully beyond. As we explore ideas on increasing membership, please let us know if you have any ideas on helping in this endeavor.

Membership Appreciation Day

It was decided at the February meeting to have a Membership Appreciation Day in April. Current plans include to have a cover dish meal prior to the 1:00 pm meeting. There will also be door prizes! Exact details will be coming later. The normal April meeting date was scheduled for April 8th. However, this is Easter weekend. Thus, also at the last meeting, the April meeting was moved to April 22nd. Again, more details will be coming soon. Mark your calendars!

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.



This photo was taken in 2011 on the Winfield Ride. The view is along the route going through the Flint Hills in mid April. Photo is from the Larry Spahn collection.

Announcements

- The annual car attendant safety meeting will be held after the March meeting at Carona. Anyone wishing to work train rides this year are welcome to attend. Any new member or any new member that has NOT attended the safety meeting previously must attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend contact us. If you have attended a previous safety training, the online test will be available. Contact Brian Carlson if you are interested in the online test.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Gate Damage Repair

Repair of the gate on the east side of the tracks at the museum complex has been completed. Kevin Anselmi of Watco had a couple of his employees come out and reset the gate posts, replaced the cable and installed a new hook to hold the cable in place. Larry installed a large, red stop sign on the cable which hopefully will



- Photo by Brian Carlson



prevent this from happening again. Thank you to Kevin and his crew for repairing the gate for us. It is greatly appreciated.

- Photo by Larry Spahn

Joplin Union Depot Meeting

On February 10, there was a meeting in Joplin to discuss the Joplin Union Depot. Three members from the Heart of the Heartlands were in attendance at the meeting. The main purpose was to brainstorm ideas with those in attendance being broken into small groups. Overall, Route 66 came up as a common theme. Many of the ideas for the building centered around a multi-use type of facility. Hopefully there will be some progress made in saving this historic building.



- Photo from the Nick Muff Collection

Dave Wallace - YouTube Videos

Member Dave Wallace recently filmed the track crew replacing ties along the SKOL line through Carona. To see the video, go to the following URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqLLpM80o1w>

Dave has many more videos of various interest. There are several where Heartlands president Larry Spahn is featured in many of them. To locate the videos, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/@easydranch>

February 11, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The February 11, 2023 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: John Chambers moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Darrell Cave seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report created by treasurer Brian Carlson, John Chambers moved, Darrell Cave seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Gate Damage Repair:

Kevin Anselmi of Watco had a couple of his employees come out and reset the gate posts, replaced the cable and installed a new hook to hold the cable in place. Larry installed a large, red stop sign on the cable which hopefully will prevent this from happening again. Thank you to Kevin and his crew for repairing the gate for us. It is greatly appreciated.

Dave Wallace YouTube videos:

It was mentioned that member Dave Wallace filmed the track crew replacing the railroad ties through the museum complex recently. The video is available on YouTube.

Scanner and slides:

John Chambers told the group that he had tried to reach out again to Donna Chilton in regards to the scanner and slides that are still in her possession. He left a voice mail and will attempt to reach out again.

New Business:

Bill Bailey Correspondence:

Jim McKeel recently forwarded an e-mail from longtime Heartland member, Bill Bailey concerning some articles that he has written concerning the KCS. Bill is a very learned fan of the KCS and is well versed in its history.

Membership:

- Discussion was held in regards to membership and ideas on increasing membership. Jim McKeel suggested that for our April meeting, we have a meal as part of a membership appreciation day. Don Richardson suggested that someone perhaps setup a booth at area events advertising what we have to offer.
- Connie Payton moved to have a Membership Appreciation Day, with a meal. Don Richardson seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the membership present.

- John Chambers moved to have the April meeting moved to April 22nd. Don Richardson seconded the motion and it was passed by the members present.

Insurance:

- We have been asked to look into what it would cost to insure the contents of the museum buildings.
- Connie Payton moved and John Chambers seconded a motion to check with our current insurance carrier to start the process of gathering information related to the cost of insuring the contents of the museum buildings. The motion was passed by the membership present.
- Larry will be in contact with our current insurance provider to begin the process.

Board of Directors Meeting:

- Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson reported to the group about the special Heart of the Heartlands board meeting that was held prior to the general meeting. Items from that meeting were:
 - Discussion was held about regular hours for the museum. Also discussed was having someone on hand during those hours.
 - It was decided to not hire an employee for the position but rather contract with an individual to provide the service of operating the museum complex during the hours we are open.
 - After the discussion, it was decided to have museum hours, Wednesday through Sunday, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The contracted person would provide services from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from Wednesday through Sunday.
 - The board decided to reach out to John Chambers to see if he would be interested in providing the service.
 - Discussion was also held about the need to recruit and increase membership.
 - Discussion of capital projects and long term needs were also discussed.

Gay Parita Auction:

Although not related to the Heart of the Heartlands, the Gay Parita is a historical significant building that is a neighbor to our museum complex. In its glory days, the Gay Parita was a stop for some of the biggest big bands of the 1940's. Dances were weekly with the crowd attending numbering in the hundreds. The structure was recently acquired and a sale of contents was held in early February. The new owner of the building has plans to renovate the building and restore many of its former characteristics. Larry commented on the sale and John Chambers commented on the planned future of the building.

Joplin Union Depot:

On February 10, 2023, there was a brainstorming meeting held in Joplin to discuss ideas for the future of the depot. Heartland's members John Randall, Tom Johnston and Rob McKnight were on hand to participate. They reported during our meeting that a common theme for the depot centered around a Route 66 theme. Uses for the building included a type of multi-use facility, shops, restaurants, art gallery among others.

Train Ride Requests:

Discussion was held about possible train rides for the upcoming year. The following locations were presented as possibilities.

- Chanute (Artist Alley)
- Pittsburg (Little Balkans Days)
- Bartlesville
- Dewey
- Pittsburg to Carona (possibly a meal)
- Coffeyville
- Winfield

A detailed list will be put together and submitted to the railroad soon.

Safety Meeting:

It was announced that the annual safety meeting will be held after the March meeting. (March 11, after the 1:00 pm meeting). Anyone that wants to help on the rides and has not attended the safety meeting previously, needs to attend this meeting. The online option will be available this year as well.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Darrell Cave seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.