

**Historical Society
United States District Court, Northern District of Iowa
Meeting Minutes**

March 6, 2019, at Noon

Attendees:

Judge C.J. Williams, Rich Murphy, Hilary Naab, Melissa Carrington, Rob Phelps, Paul DeYoung, Danielle Cripe

Kevin Collins and Timothy Hill were unable to attend, so Rich Murphy led the meeting.

1. Introductions were made

2. Motion to approve September minutes

The September 12, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer report

Rich Murphy reported \$3,004.83 in the bank.

4. Update on oral histories and Drake proposal

Tabled.

5. NDIA history book update

Hilary reported that they are waiting on the appendix with staff names from the United States Attorney's office, an appendix from the Clerk of Court on the Nature of Suits and a civil law chapter that Tim and Melissa are putting together.

Melissa reports they have provided an outline on the chapter and have a goal of Mid-May 2019 for completion.

Rich reports there is so much turnover in the staff in the United States Attorney's office they are just putting together a list of Assistant United States Attorneys. Rich reports he is using West Law to research the Assistant United States Attorneys dating back to the 1800s. He anticipates the list would be approximately 80-85 people. They have a draft list and are currently trying to get confirmation from the Department on the dates of service. They will also aim to have the list submitted by Mid-May 2019.

Judge Williams reports the book will be novel size (5 ½ x 8 ½) and his Law Clerk, Shelby Mars, has agreed to help edit the book.

6. Cedar Rapids history center update status/Sioux City historical display

Rob reports that his idea for the Sioux City display would be to take the extra materials from the Cedar Rapids display and turn them into a mobile display that can be placed in the hall in Sioux City because they don't have a designated space for a permanent display.

Rich reported he liked the mobile display that is currently set up in the Cedar Rapids history center. He reports the biographies need to be updated including Judge McManus, Judge O'Brien, Judge Bennett and Judge Reade. The 3D images of courthouses don't all include information on what courthouse is depicted, the location and the year the photo was taken. Rich suggested that more signage is needed to direct visitors to the interactive display for more information, as well as more instruction to indicate the display is interactive and how to use it.

Rob reported that there is a sound bar feature on the interactive display, however it is not currently enabled.

Rich also mentioned that while there is information on the flood, it appears to be underrepresented. There is nothing about the courtroom murals in the old Cedar Rapids courthouse or why they were covered up. The City of Cedar Rapids has pamphlets on the murals, and something like that could be incorporated into the history center. Information on the location building cost, the current use, the date it was demolished, etc... could also be included.

Judge Williams pointed out that a new chapter was added to the history book that includes the details on the court locations that can be incorporated into the history center display.

Rich pointed out that there are only a few cases included and it may be worthwhile to add a few more historically significant cases.

Rob reported the original cost of \$200,000 was covered by the Library Fund and the update will likely cost \$50,000 - \$100,000. Permission would have to be granted by the Chief Judge in order to designate the library funds to the History Center update. The next step would be hiring a consultant.

Judge Williams, Hilary and Melissa will join the sub-committee to update the History Center.

Rob will pull the original paperwork, so bids can be obtained. Rob will also send an e-mail out to the Historical Society membership to seek volunteers to assist or join the sub-committee.

7. Membership

Rich reported there are 32 paid members as of January.

8. Historical Society webpage on the new website

Rob reports the new Northern District of Iowa website is live and includes a page for the Historical Society, although the membership page needs to be updated.

9. New business

Judge Williams reports that he has reached out to Judge O'Brien's family to determine how many copies the family wants. However, he has not received a final count. The family received 4 copies gratis.

Rich reports that Judge Bremer has ordered a copy and has sent a check.

The committee agreed that the order should be whatever the O'Brien family wants plus 10. If the family wants more than 2 additional books they will be charged \$15 per book. If the family is only requesting 2 additional books they will be complimentary. If Judge Williams does not receive word from Judge O'Brien's family an order of 15 will be placed.

Beth Hansen, committee secretary, has not been replaced. Notice will be given that nominations are being sought and a new secretary will be elected at the next meeting.

Rich pointed out that other members of the court family, such as the Federal Public Defender and the United States Probation officer, are not included in the History Center even though they've been an integral part of the court functions.

Hilary suggested that the timeline might be converted to the interactive display because the physical one is so quickly outdated.

Rich mentioned that cases such as the Honken/Johnson case and the Victor Feguer case, the last federal inmate from Iowa put to death, may be noteworthy cases to be included in the display for their historical significance to the district.

Rob pointed out that the committee may need the court's consent to include cases because there was previously a concern with including cases that are recent and have living participants.

10. Next meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at Noon

Meeting Adjourned 12:49 PM