

# Will Rogers Memorial Commission

Quarterly Meeting 15 August 2011

11:00 AM, Administrative Offices/Library, Will Rogers Memorial Museum

1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd.

Claremore, OK 74017

**Chair Jim Hartz called the meeting to order** at 11:01 AM, acknowledging that a quorum had been met.

**Roll Call.** The roll call was taken and, in addition to Chair Hartz, Commissioners Steve Turnbo, James K. Rogers, and Paul Johnson were present. Commissioners Cara Cowan Watts, Steve Pazzo, and Deacon Turner were not in attendance. Director Steve Gragert and Business Manager and Commission Recording Secretary Jacob Krumwiede were also in attendance. Visitors in attendance were Doris “Coke” Meyer, Linda Bradshaw, Gene Lloyd, Julie S. Luna, Elmer Symsack, Rick Mobley, Pat Reeder, John Little, and Carol Low.

Commission Chair Jim Hartz mentioned that Jodi McIntyre is a possible replacement for Deacon Turner’s position on the Commission.

**Minutes of the meeting of 11 May 2011.** The minutes were adopted and approved on a motion from Commissioner Paul Johnson. The motion was seconded by James K. Rogers. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report.** Business Manager Jacob Krumwiede presented the FY 2012 General Appropriation and FY 2012 Carryover Fund Report. The Report of Expenditures in Excess of \$1000 was presented, and Chair Hartz asked about the details of rebuilding the chiller condenser on 7 June by Johnson Controls. Director Steve Gragert and Building Supervisor John Little answered the questions.

The financial reports were approved on a motion by Commissioner Steve Turnbo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Director’s Report.** Director Steve Gragert discussed attendance at the Memorial Museum and Birthplace Ranch in Oologah; an update about research on the topic of Will Rogers; magazines that feature Will Rogers including *Oklahoma Today*; and a gift to the museum from a Kemper Military Academy cadet.

Commissioner Chair Jim Hartz asked what it might take to get people to donate Will Rogers items they have collected so the museum’s collection might grow. Director Steve Gragert mentioned there were possibilities from the social media websites.

Director Steve Gragert also discussed the success of the previous day’s Will Rogers & Wiley Post Fly-In, including the largest number of airplanes in memory.

The director’s report was approved with a motion by Commissioner James K. Rogers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Charging Admission.** Commissioner Jim Hartz opened discussion regarding charging admission to the Will Rogers Memorial Museum and presented a report regarding admission.

Director Gragert spoke on possible desk locations, and the problems and benefits of each, the admission fees, who would collect the admissions, and the possible consequences of collecting.

Docent Elmer Symsack in attendance stated that the docent program was not established to collect admission and possible re-training might be needed. Docent Symsack also stated concerns at how much money might

actually be collected versus how much might be incurred in expenses. Also mentioned were temperature concerns if the desk were placed in the enclosed entry.

Commissioner Jim Hartz mentioned that it would be best to establish a temporary system for a “trial run.” Commissioner James K. Rogers mentioned the family has approved an admission charge and stated that it needs to be done. Commissioner Paul Johnson believes that the Commission does not have much of an option but to charge admission due to pressure from the State of Oklahoma. Commissioner Steve Turnbo thought that \$7.00 might be a little too much to start and recommended a \$5.00 charge would be a better admission price. It was important to be clear that no one should be denied admission because of the charge.

Director Gragert also mentioned the different charge structure for different situations, including seniors, military personnel, school groups, children, parents, and other special situations.

Commissioner Paul Johnson agreed \$7.00 might be a little too much to start and recommended \$5.00.

Commissioner Steve Turnbo made a motion to approve the proposed admission plan with reduced charges and Commissioner Paul Johnson seconded the motion with the recommendation that the museum not charge for school groups. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jim Hartz recommended that the staff move forward with the design and implementation of a trial period.

**Approval of Will Rogers Heritage, Inc., name change and changes to Articles of Incorporation.** Director Gragert presented the Commission with a recommendation from the Will Rogers Heritage Board of Directors that recommended the articles of incorporation to be changed from fifty years to perpetual. The recommendation would also change the name from Will Rogers Heritage, Inc., to Will Rogers Memorial Foundation. Commissioner Steve Turnbo made a motion to adopt the changes and Commissioner Paul Johnson seconded motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business.** Commissioner Rogers stated that an admission fee will be charged and the logistics will be left to administrative staff on how to work out who will collect admission and other decisions needing to be made to implement charging an admission. The staff will present the details to the Commission at the next meeting.

The meeting temporarily adjourned from 12:00 PM to 12:15 PM for the Commission members to inspect the admission desk location.

When the meeting reconvened, Commission Chair Jim Hartz mentioned that Ranch Manager Jim Williams had brought up some serious concerns with the main restroom facility, the problems with the recreational vehicle hookups, and water pressure at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch. Commission Chair Jim Hartz recommended that the Memorial staff move forward with removing the restroom facility and the recreational vehicle hookups.

Commission Chair Jim Hartz discussed possible sponsorship for Fly-In events in the future. There was further discussion about the possibility of changing the date of Fly-In from Sunday to Saturday, but no action was made.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.