

**The Anna Palmer Museum Advisory Board**  
**Minutes**  
**August 12, 2021**

The meeting was called to order. All appointed members were present. Present: Christi Lones, Scott VanEsch, Mary Scott, Brent Magner, Jean Vincent, Chloe Holmes, Nancy Beach.

The Open Meetings Act compliance statement was made. The meeting was publicized in the York News Times.

Mary Scott was nominated to serve as chair and approved by a motion for unanimous consent made by Scott VanEsch.

The board engaged in brainstorming concerning a mission for the museum and what members would like to see. Key ideas are summarized in the attached brainstorming notes document. No decisions were made on a mission or direction at this time. A discussion point was the importance of having conversations with other collaboration partners before, or as, we develop our mission and focus.

Key points made during the discussion of deaccession policy for the museum:

- We need a mission and an accession policy and those will guide deaccession
- The History Nebraska model focuses on ensuring respectful use of the artifacts donated when deaccessioned.
- In a community like York, our policy needs to consider returning artifacts to the donating families if possible.
- Accession policy (and deaccession policy) needs to be pragmatic for our staffing and resource situation
- Consider the York Historical Society policy as a model. Nancy will provide a copy to board members.

The board did not get to agenda item 6 concerning subcommittees.

Action Steps:

Contact a realtor about storage space/museum space

Review York Historical Society policy

Develop contact/collaboration ideas

## **Brainstorming Notes**

*August 12, 2021*

### Mission statement ideas:

Come live history  
Honor the past, educate, and inspire  
Educate entertain and inspire  
Engage past the past to enhance the future

### Scope

4<sup>th</sup> graders are a key focus  
Don't want it to just be for kids  
Avoid too narrow of a time frame  
Could use History Nebraska definition of historical  
Consider Covid example – would want to collect some things related to this experience even if not “historical” today.  
Passport destination – not just a local asset  
Anna Palmer – citizenship focus  
County history – not just city history  
Large number of notable people from York

### Approaches

Interactive – doesn't mean that artifacts themselves are touched  
More story oriented than thing oriented  
Showcase Teach kids to do things like embroidery or pressing flowers  
Kiosks for computer aided displays  
Computers could serve as docents  
Phone code for virtual reality  
Scavenger hunts with QR codes  
Quizzes for kids  
Self-guided tour options  
Junior docent program at York College as a model  
Tell the story of why museum is important  
Willingness to go to kids to sell museum not expect them to come

### Collaboration Ideas

Drama department at high school Music York College  
School partnerships  
Collaborate with our library  
York has history of not collaborating  
How to get historical society and museum together  
Wessels Farm

### Other

Importance of funding to have expertise  
Need for foundation fund-raising  
Challenges of city tax-payer funds