



CVGS Advisory Council Meeting Notes

January 15, 2015

Attendees: Cheryl Franceschi, Dick Scheuerman, Lee Ann Schlager, Steve Schreiber, Valerie Miller and Brent Mai

1) Brent provided an update and requested feedback from members on the following topics:

- Staff update – Brent requested the Council’s review of the current position description following Sue’s resignation. It was suggested that because it is part-time, the position begin as an administrative assistant. If the position were able to expand, particularly if the CVGS receives the grant it applied for, more responsibility would be added.
- Finance update – a brief review of how the CVGS receives its finances was given to the Council. Brent’s travel for the conferences held in 2014 was covered through book sales and donations, as well as the funds generated through conference registration fees. Lee Ann requested that Brent provide, for the next meeting, the total of expenditures and income for the 2014 mini-conferences. Members requested a financial summary so that the Council may provide further recommendations for funding of future projects. Information was shared about Dick Scheuerman’s forthcoming books, the royalties from which will be donated to the CVGS.
- Grant application – The Concordia Foundation and the CVGS have partnered to request a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The request is for the planning phase of interactive programs that will “engage a broad audience in the exploration of cultural diversity through the history of Volga Germans”. The grant, if funded, includes the development of an “immigrant trunk” educational curriculum, public programs and workshops. A travelling exhibition featuring three aspects of Volga German culture will also be developed through grant funds.
- Events calendar – the Council reviewed Brent’s proposed calendar of events through October 2017 and will give him additional feedback for planning.

2) Advisory Council Operating Procedures

- The Council recommended the following change to Section 2e of its procedures – “Review and provide recommendations to the Director and CU on CVGS project funding”.
- Also, Section 4b was revised to read “Review the CVGS finances and make recommendations to the CVGS Director and University Provost for future CVGS activities”.
- Brent and Valerie will meet to update the timelines of activities for the goals and objectives.

3) Advisory Council Chair

- Duties of the Council chair were reviewed. The Council requested Valerie to remain as Council Chair and she accepted.

4) Review of “Dryland”

- Lee Ann shared information about a documentary film, “Dryland”, whose two main characters have German-Russian ancestors. It was filmed over a ten-year period in the lives of two boys who grew up farming in Central Washington and participating in a combine demolition derby. It is not a film specifically about being Volga German, although their heritage is evident in the film. Steve will be sharing the film at a local AHSGR chapter meeting and Brent will include time for the film in the agenda for the upcoming event in Leavenworth.

5) CVGS Data

- Brent reported data on the usage of the CVGS. Total number of visits to the CVGS website for the months of May – December of 2014 were 39, 526. Total number of Facebook “friends” was 1,318. Also, visitor data for the past four years was shared. In 2014 the Center had 684 visitors from 11 states in four countries.
- Valerie shared the 2014 Volunteer Report. In August, CVGS volunteers began the use of time sheets for tracking their work. Volunteers donated a total of 823.25 hours of time between August and the end of December, both locally and in other locales, such as Chicago and Argentina. Projects included assistance for CVGS sponsored events, data entry, archival of donated collections and research and writing of German origins. Lee Ann listed the specific collections that have been added to the archives since October: Larry Mai, Ted Marks, John Geis, Phillip Lehl and Georg and Christina Glanz Miller.
- The Council recommended to Brent that a meeting be scheduled with Mark Wahlers, Denny Stoecklin and other CU administration to share progress and data on the Center’s goals and objectives. Last year, following the completion of the Long Range plan, Brent, Steve and Valerie met with the CU administration to review the Center’s newly developed long-range plan.

6) Meetings for 2015

- The Council will continue its quarterly meeting schedule. Friday’s are preferred as meeting times. Valerie will draft a meeting schedule for member’s feedback.
- Proposed meeting dates for the remainder of this year are:
 - Friday, April 10;
 - Friday, July 31; and
 - Friday, December 4