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Tractor Test and Power Museum, The Lester F.
Larsen

January 1999

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Tractor Museum

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**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum Committee**

WHEN: January 19, 1999
1:45 PM

WHERE: In the museum

PRESENT: Dale Vanderholm, Paul Walgren, Bob Kleis, Mark Nickolalus, Frank Hledik, Wayne Strasburg, Jim Estes, Larry Heniann, Duane Byerly, Brent Nyffeler, E.A. Olsen, Glenn Hoffman, Leonard Bashford, Charlie Fenster, Bill Splinter

OPENING: Chair Splinter explained all of the improvements accomplished for the museum and pointed them out to those in attendance.

Splinter reviewed the membership and officers for Friends of the Museum. Besides the original 18 members, there are now 44 additional members.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as mailed

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account	\$2,347
UNL Foundation	\$15,000
Available from other subaccounts in Foundation	\$7,000
Operating budget in BSE	\$12,000

Open House of Museum in conjunction with NE Tractor Test Open House on January 15, 1999
About 200 visited the museum

Library in the museum is functional. People are now asking for reference material on antique tractors.

Roger Welsch's antique tractor "Woodpecker" is on display in the museum. Raffle tickets are being sold.

Draft of the letter of agreement between Tractor Test Museum and UN State Museum was distributed. Jim Estes reviewed similar arrangements at Ashfall State Park and the Trailside Museum. Chair Splinter asked for committee's support to pursue approval for this agreement. We currently have about \$100,000 pledged to an endowment for the museum. The hope is to gain a total of \$400,000 with an eventual goal of \$1,000,000 in the endowment.

Motion moved to pursue this agreement by Fenster and seconded by Kleis. Discussion held on the number and type of positions needed to run the museum. We will seek graduate students from the museum studies to help. Motion passed unanimously. Members were encouraged to send their comments on the agreement to Splinter.

In the future we hope to have someone at the museum daily.

OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 1999: (All were elected unanimously.)

Chair	William Splinter
Vice Chair	Bob Kleis
Secretary	Glenn Hoffman
Treasurer	Shirley Trauger

Fenster suggested a web site be established on the department's home page.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. for coffee and cookies.

Friends of the Tractor Test & Power Museum

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DRAFT 1/19, 1999

Letter of Agreement for the Development and Management of the
University of Nebraska Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum

This letter confirms the commitment of the University of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Foundation and the University of Nebraska State Museum to the development and permanent maintenance of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum. The subject matter of the Museum is the evolution of agricultural production from human power, through animal power to the modern state of mechanization and the impact this has had on society.

- The University of Nebraska Lincoln will provide a total of 6542 sq. ft. of exhibit space permanently designated for the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum. The Museum is located between L. W. Chase Hall and the Biological Systems Engineering Laboratory building, east of the tractor testing course.
- It is the committed intention of the University of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Foundation and the University of Nebraska State Museum to work in Partnership with the Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum to raise funds for the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum, to ensure its overall maintenance and its academic accuracy. Toward that end, the Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, with advice of the Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum, will empanel an advisory board composed of nine individuals with expertise in engineering, history and sociology by February 1, 1999. This advisory board will be responsible for the oversight of the scientific and engineering content of the museum in the

development phases of the project. Board members will serve three-year terms on a staggered basis. The Head of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, the President of the Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum, the Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, and the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources Facilities Coordinator will serve as *ex officio* members of the Advisory Board.

- If the Nebraska State Museum receives, by early 1999, a letter of commitment from the Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum to raise \$400,000 in private contribution, including funds which have been raised to present, the following timeline is proposed:

Phase 1

February 1, 1999	Solicitation for funds by individuals is expanded. These funds would be used for day to day operations.
March 1, 1999	Proposals are submitted to agricultural tractor and equipment manufacturers. Emphasis would be place on establishing a \$400,000 endowment for permanent support of the program.
June 1, 1999	Preproposal for \$100,000 submitted to Informal Science Education Program, National Science Foundation Funds would be sought to develop education exhibits and research the history of specific exhibits currently contained in the Chauncey W. Smith and the Lester F. Larsen collections.
December 1999	Final proposal is submitted to the National Science Foundation.

June 1, 2000

Notification is received from the National Science
Foundation.

Phase 2

January 1, 2005

Initiate proposals to expand endowed support to \$1,000,000.

- The University of Nebraska Foundation will assist the Friends of the Tractor Test and Power Museum in raising the afore mentioned funds.
- In cooperation with the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, the University of Nebraska State Museum will work toward establishment of two positions: Director and Curator/Exhibits Manager, in addition to graduate students in Museum Studies and hourly employees, as funding and management of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum dictate. Funding for these positions, for costs of operation of the museum and for costs of renovations or modification of the facility will primarily derive from endowments or individual contributors to the University of Nebraska Foundation or from grants. Depending on programmatic interests, support for museum related peronnel may be through partial or total appointments within the faculty or staff of the Nebraska State museum or the Department of Biological Systems Engineering.
- The Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum will serve as an ancillary to the Nebraska State Museum, similar to the programs at Ashfl State Park and the Trailside Museum. The Director of the TT Museum will report to the Director of

the University of Nebraska State Museum who will have primary administrative and budgetary responsibility.

- Because the exhibit structure and site of the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test Museum derive directly from faculty and programs of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, an integrated program based on joint appointments needs to be established, similar to arrangements which have been historically established with other faculties, such as Geosciences, Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Entomology.
- The Friends of the Nebraska Tractor Test and Power Museum will affiliate with the Friends of the Nebraska State Museum in the same way as the Friends support organizations for the Ashfall and Trailside museums. The President of the Friends of the Nebraska Tractor Test and Power Museum will meet annually with the Board of the Friends of the University of Nebraska Tractor Test and Power Museum will meet and report annually with the Board of the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum, and may participate in activities of the Friends of the Nebraska State Museum. The Treasurer of the Friends of the Nebraska Tractor Test and Power Museum will submit an annual report to the Treasurer of the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Signature page for the

University of Nebraska Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum

Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Nebraska

President, University of Nebraska Foundation

Director, University of Nebraska State Museum

Head, Biological Systems Engineering, University of Nebraska

Director, University of Nebraska Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum