

SSNHA Coffee Talk 2, Small Site discussion
Thursday, May 21, 2020 (9am-10am)

Q & A:

Q: Heidi Reams, Fossil Prairie Center: I'm curious on who will be opening soon and what will they do different? And Q: Crystal Archer, Scenic City Empress Boat Club: What does everyone's re-opening phase plans look like?

A: Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site: July 1 for reopening. Still keeping at 50% and will keep to small group to allow for social distancing. We have a three phase plan for reopening. Moving from phases will be in part with the Governor changes from 50%- 75% occupancy.

A: Joan Maxwell, Cinnamon Ridge Farms: We are an operating farm that does tours. All of the group tours, especially this time of year, student tours have cancelled. Large bus tours have been cancelled, many are international tour groups. With cash flow, having small groups does not work and currently won't open for small groups. Have already cancelled all three big events host each year. Unfortunately, not sure when will open again.

A: Michelle Adams, Carnegie Cultural Center: We decided to wait until the next board meeting on June 11 to make a decision.

A: Cheryl Erb, Carrie's Girlhood Home Museum: Commented one thing from last coffee talk's discussion that resonated was we DO NOT have to open even though the proclamation has been made. Review your protocol, feel out your staff and volunteers, can look at things month by month. Currently, Carrie Lane will be by appt. only. Usually we have 1,200 visitors a year, no charge for admission. Celebrating 50th Anniversary but still trying to stay in the eyes and ears of visitors through social media, signs and banners placed throughout town talking about 50th Anniversary.

A: Mike Boyle, Cedar County Historical Society: Not open yet, will be by appt only going forward for the month of June and then reassess in July. Discouraging groups larger than 10.

A: Mariah Busta, Iowa's Dairy Center: Following NICC phase guidelines. Currently in 1 of 4 with phase 4 opening back up to public. Not sure the speed of change for phases. In the interim, taken to virtual tours of the farm with Zoom. First with schools since they had to cancel, but considering opening to public. Thoughts now are charge or not charge for this virtual tool?

A: Candy Streed—SSNHA Director of Partnerships, Agreed this is all uncharted territory. Reminding sites to move forward with what is best for your site.

A: with 19 sites on Zoom call: no one was ready to open this Friday; a couple agreed June 1 they would be ready; a handful for June 15.

Q: Lynn Bolin, New Day Dairy: Mariah - do you have someone else that helps you with virtual tours or do you run camera and talk by yourself?

A: Currently use a cell phone and run by self, some internet form is needed: Wifi or cell service data.

Q: Crystal Archer, Scenic City Empress City Boat: Does anyone else run a site that opens for events like weddings, reunions

A: Marilyn Reinertson, Hardin County Farm Museum: We just started last year with weddings.

A: Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site: For weddings, elopement packages are something we are going to explore with our smaller buildings.

A: Doreen Petersen, Harriman- Neilsen: A barn is available for renting out for events. As long as city also approves events happening, site rents the barn space and it is up to the person paying/renting on how comfortable they are on size of event. No staff/volunteers on site during events.

Q: Cindy Goodner, Seed Savers Exchange: Let's talk restrooms! For sites who are open, if you have public restrooms are they open during this time?

A: Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site: amping up cleaning for restrooms, min. of 3/day. Already have a signing log to show times cleaned. At Mississippi River Museum, will be closing off half the stall in larger bathrooms. Added in comments as something to think about when holding outdoor events—if no access to indoor restroom—will need to have Porta Potty's; plans on how to keep sanitary/clean.

Q: Heidi Reams, Fossil & Prairie Center: With visitor centers opening, is there anyone concerned about increased cleaning requirements? Especially with hands on items?

A: Lynn Bolin, New Day Dairy: We are considering leaving a note on our games/books that say if you touch it, leave it in this basket to be "out of commission" for X # of days... I don't want to get rid of them completely.

A: Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site: Will not have any "touch" items available for public. Only items they are allowed to touch are doorknobs and handrails. Mississippi River Museum will be closing off touch-zones as well. At this point they are taking the more cautious steps for visitors early on. Victoria has been using a combination of Illinois (more strict, in her option) and Texas (very honest) guidelines for reopening than some of the more generalized points from Iowa. Texas guidelines have a good take on museums and viewed as "touch-zones"; how to reopen to public.

A: Heidi Reams, Fossil & Prairie Center: Is still thinking about how to handle their visitor center as most of it is hands-on. They may keep center closed and only have outdoor space learning available.

Q: Lynn Bolin, New Day Dairy: Rockford Fossil Park - have you seen an uptick of outdoor visitors since outdoor activities are becoming popular?

A: Heidi Reams, Fossil & Prairie Center: Yes our Park has been very busy. I'm sure if we opened the Center it would also be busy and full. Good and bad side of things.

Q: SSNHA Staff: How does the volunteer side of things look for sites?

A: Michelle Adams, Carnegie Cultural Center: The grand majority of our volunteers are in that higher risk group. A few are not ready to come back, but a majority are ready come back in July. But like most of you, volunteers would be a part of Phase 2.

A: Victoria Cote, Mathias Ham Historic Site: We are not brining volunteers back until Phase 2 (many have said the month Aug/Sept they would be more comfortable with)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

*Laura Elfers, SSNHA Educational Engagement Director: Hi Everyone! Here are some upcoming webinars you may be interested: **Thursday May 28 at 1:00 P.M. Guide By Cell Webinar on “When Every Aspect of Your Museum Job Has Changed, How Do You Move Forward?”**http://info.engagebycell.com/guide-webinar-lp-5/28/2020?utm_campaign=Guide%20Webinar&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9jxHsD79uTlw1X7wdnzl3RuNi_96dwPsJZnEueibjUZws28svkvkLuu4DRThISnQTvtJS5-i00HOOP5_1TuJT5wZd-

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Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 1 PM Travel Iowa and eLearningU webinar- “What You Can Be Doing to Your Website and Web Presence During This Time:

http://www.susansweeney.com/IOWA.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=LEARN%20MORE&utm_campaign=E-Traveler%20-%20May%2020%2C%202020

U.S. Travel Association has some great statistics on what visitors are looking for. Check it out.

***Websites that have sanitizer and stations available:**

<https://sanipackz.com/collections/hand-sanitizer>

<https://rushsanitizers.com/in-stock-hand-sanitizers>

***<https://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/covid-19-resources/>**

***Private Facebook page for Partner Sites: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/170507247480694/>**

***Don't forget about the SSNHA COVID award application:**

<https://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/partner/funding-opportunities/>

(Lynn Bolin @ New Day Dairy encourages people to think outside the box for the COVID-19 grants!)