

Rebild National Park Society, Inc.
Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2023
Hilton Post Oak by the Galleria, Houston, Texas

- 1. OPENING:** President Jorgen Bech Madsen welcomed approximately 50 Rebild National Park Society members to the Rebild Annual General Membership Meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Hilton Post Oak by the Galleria, Houston, Texas.
- 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Sune Frederiksen from Berea, Kentucky was elected as chairman of the meeting.
- 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jorgen Bech Madsen reported that the Rebild Chicago Annual Membership Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, Illinois in April 2022 was very successful, and the July 4, 2022 Rebild Festival in Denmark was well-organized with attendance by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II to the Rebild Hills. Rebild National Park Society has good support from the Royal House and the Embassies in addition to good relationships with Aalborg and Rebild municipalities. We are working to increase Rebild sponsorships and to combine more social and business functions in order to bring Rebild to the next level. We are also working on improving the Rebild properties, such as a new thatched roof and heat pumps at the Rebild offices.
- 4. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REBILD DAYS 2022:** Rebild Secretary General Helene Christensen showed photographs from the Rebild Days 2022. She reported that Bruce Bro received the Top Karen's Prize 2022, and the Rebild Gala 2022 at the Comwell in Aalborg provided good food and a great atmosphere. The Rebild Auction was successful. The Rebild Tent Luncheon on July 4, 2022 was also popular, and Sune Frederiksen was honored as Mayor for a Day 2022. Despite a rainstorm coming through during the Rebild Festival itself, the full day was a very positive experience.
- 5. FINANCIAL REPORT 2022 AND BUDGET 2023:** Rebild Board Member and Former President Jesper Jespersen reported on the Financial Report 2022 and the Budget 2023. Rebild National Park Society is thankful for a 250,000 DKK donation from Svend Erik Pedersen and Jutta Larsen. The 4th of July Rebild Festival resulted in a loss of \$24,000 USD. Our profits overall were \$39,000 USD and after interest payments resulted in a profit of \$36,000 USD. Our membership numbers are going down, but our sponsorship levels are going up. We pay 8% interest on our line of credit. For the 2023 Budget, Jesper estimated that the income will be 1,300,000 DKK and expenses 1,075,000 DKK for a profit of 225,000 DKK before interest with an end result of a profit of 175,000 DKK. There are no plans to make an endowment fund until we no longer need the line of credit. The music, tent and speakers at the 4th of July Rebild Festival are our highest costs.
- 6. UPDATE FROM THE DANISH AND U.S. CHAPTERS:** U.S. Vice President Bruce Bro thanked everyone for coming to Texas and for the nice comments. Bruce recognized

Jesper Jespersen for his excellent work on behalf of Rebuild. Each Rebuild Chapter has different activities, depending on the region. We hope to establish new chapters in Portland, Oregon and Florida in addition to revitalizing the chapter in Seattle. "The 4th" E-News is very successful. Please share new e-mail addresses and news with Bruce and Linda. The Quarterly ZOOM meetings are popular with approximately 30 participants each time. Rebuild is thankful for the support of Scan Design Foundation and its new President Fildelma McGinn. In 2022, Scan Design provided a \$5,000 grant for the "Avenue of Flags" and in 2023, Scan Design is awarding Rebuild a \$25,000 grant. Bruce announced that the National Foundation for Danish America will continue as a \$4,000 Rebuild Sponsor. New Rebuild board member Toni McLeod Battaglia and her husband Eric are new \$2,000 Rebuild sponsors. Rebuild Lifetime Memberships are available for \$1,500. Lars Nygaard Pedersen is the Rebuild Danish Vice President, and he keeps everyone informed of the events and news from Denmark. Lisa Riggs told about the Rebuild 50/50 Raffle in addition to the Live and Silent Auction at the Rebuild Gala coming up on Saturday evening. Lisa also told about the importance of in-kind donations and volunteer assistance, like her husband Mike helping with installation and raising of the many heavy flagpoles lined up in the Rebuild Hills.

7. ELECTION TO THE BOARD 2023 AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTGOING

BOARD MEMBERS: Bertel Schou (Iowa/West Virginia) was recognized for his six years of service on the Rebuild National Board, and Katrine Vange (Illinois) was thanked for her three years of service on the Rebuild Board. Bruce Bro (Arizona) was re-elected to the Rebuild Board for another three years, and Lisbeth Hopper (Utah) and Carl Steffensen (Texas) were newly-elected for three-year terms. Newly-elected Danish board members include: Michael Lynderup Kjeldsen, Henrik Jepsen and Anja Mathiasen. Special thanks to all of the outgoing, current and newly-elected board members for their service to Rebuild.

8. REBUILD CELEBRATION 2023: Rebuild Secretary General Helene Christensen reported on the Rebuild Program 2023, which includes **July 1:** American Days in Aalborg, the Golf Tournament "Rebuild Open and Country Festival", and Guided Tour: Highlights of Aalborg; **July 2:** DAK Garden Party and Rebuild Picnic; **July 3:** Reception by Aalborg's Mayor in the Old Town Hall, DAK Mayor for a Day Luncheon and Rebuild Gala; **July 4:** Memorial Ceremony in Aalborg, enrollment in Christian IV Guild, new area open at 10 AM in the Rebuild Hills with workshops with American football, local cheerleading, Western rides and food stands, Rebuild Tent Luncheon, Rebuild Festival 2023, Garden Reception and After-Party in the tent with live music and food; **July 5:** Membership Meeting, Membership Luncheon and Board Meeting. Helene also told about the Entertainment and Speaker Line-Up for the Rebuild Festival 2023. All of the details and registration information are posted at www.rebuildfesten.dk.

9. UPDATE ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS: Sune Frederiksen spoke about next year's Rebuild Annual Membership Meeting and Tours on **April 2 - 10, 2024** in the Greater Cincinnati, Ohio area. Hotel rooms are booked at the Embassy Suites Covington, Kentucky. Sune has a great itinerary planned, including **April 2:** Meet and Greet; **April 3:** U.S. Air Force National Museum in Dayton, Ohio, Outlet Mall

Shopping, Cincinnati Cultural Center and Supper at Molly Malones; **April 4:** Rebuild Board Meeting, Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Meeting and Greet, Smorrebrod Meal; **April 5:** Aquarium, Lunch at Hoffbrauhaus, Tour of Local Business or Industry; **April 6:** Annual Meeting, River Tour and Gala Dinner; **April 7 and 8:** Post-Tour to Berea, Kentucky and sights along the way. Sponsorship opportunities are available. See www.rebuildfesten.dk for details.

10. RECEIVED PROPOSALS: None.

11. MISCELLANEOUS: Bruce Bro told about Rebuild National Park's Society new relationship with Grandview University in Des Moines, Iowa; and Tova Brandt told about the Museum of Danish America's 40th Anniversary in 2023 in addition to the Danish American Heritage Society Conference on June 22 - 24, 2024 in Elk Horn, Iowa. The meeting adjourned followed by a brief Reorganizational Meeting of the new Rebuild National Board.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Steffensen, U.S. Corporate Secretary