

## **Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area**

Meeting Minutes – Aug. 14, 2003  
St. Joseph's Parrish Hall, Humboldt, Ks.

### **Attendees:**

Brenda Day	Shelia Lampe	Dorothy Collins
Steve Collins	Dave Evans	Martha Parker
Gwen Marten	Emily Hunter	Chris Bauman
Jackie Clark	Anne Emerson	Emma Crites
Jim Whaley	Ron Harris	Andrea Renick-Bell
Sharole Prah	Diane Niehoff	Alice Widner
Ola May Earnest	Ernestine Cheney	Doreen Homewood
Kerry Altenbernd	Steve Adams	Carol McDowell
Carolyn Green	Eileen Robertson	Dale Nimz
John Nichols	Debbie White	Sue Pridemore

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Judy Billings, thanking the committee members from Humboldt for hosting the meeting. Eileen Robinson (wearing her period ball gown by Holly Turner from Gardner) and Carolyn Green welcomed the group to Humboldt. They distributed a printed sheet of history of our meeting place. We were invited to view the church following the meeting. St. Joseph's parish was a mission parish established in 1857 with a stone church being erected in 1866 on this same site. The present church was completed in 1910. Ms. Robinson introduced Joe Papailino, a photographer with the Humboldt Union and Chris Tillman from St. Joseph's. Judy thanked our hostess for the brief but interesting history of our surroundings. Also on hand to welcome the group; Ernestine Chaney, president of the city council and Doreen Homewood, president of Humboldt Historical Society. Ms. Homewood read a Letter of Support from the Humboldt community. Judy commented that this was very significant as it is our first official letter of support. (Copy attached) Judy suggested we all solicit letters of support from our communities.

### **Corrections to the minutes:**

Steve Adams noted some misspelling of names. It was noted that attendance is taken from the sign in roster which is not always very legible. Brenda Day made a motion to accept the minutes of the July10 meeting, seconded by Quinn Davis and approved.

### **Old Business:**

Sue Pridemore suggested we include preservation and conservation in the Vision. Judy suggested we come back to and address the vision and mission after reviewing the goals. Kerry Altenbernd commented that we should keep the mission statement short, sweet and to the point. **Goals;** changed protect to promote; now reading, "Strengthen partnerships to preserve, promote and educate." We also added a 4<sup>th</sup> goal; "Utilize heritage to stimulate economic development opportunity". John Nichols suggested including "natural resources". After discussion, Steve Adams suggested "cultural and natural landscapes" as landscapes will need to be identified for Heritage Area designation. Thus the goal would read "Enhance and develop cultural and natural landscapes and activities."

Judy explained that in the process of going toward Federal Designation a feasibility study would be necessary and she introduced Dale Nimz, here today to give a proposal for that study. A copy of the proposal was passed around for review and forgiveness was asked for proceeding with pursuit of study. When asked where the money for the study would come from, Judy commented we would have to raise it.

Dale is a native Kansan, growing up on a wheat farm near Goodland, moving to Manhattan then on to Lawrence where he has been for 25 years. He has a Masters Degree from George Washington University, PHD in American History and Environmental History. He has been teaching Historic Preservation Economics and is on the cutting edge of Historical Preservation goals for the state, Congress and the National Park Service, defining what National Heritage Areas are and how to get there.

This proposal is based on what has been done by volunteers on this committee. The original research is not done by Dale or his team, but will be put together based on information given to him. Studies of this kind usually range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and up to \$300,000. The proposal presented is for the very minimum to be done by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional steps beyond this will be required, but this will begin the process.

Our next step will be a Feasibility/Suitability Study. Cathy Ambler, former Asst. Director/Cultural Resources Division for the Kansas State Historical Society will assist Dale in this project, along with one or two KU grad students. Also being asked to review the study is Dennis Domer, former KU Associate Dean of Architecture. This plan is a very necessary part of the package needed to present for fundraising and to present to Congress for designation. **We will need to have public meetings out in the areas involved to inform the people and get their input.**

Cost of this proposal; \$32,000. Judy reiterated we are not hiring Dale for research, this will be furnished to him on the data form previously agreed on. **Limited** supporting information may be attached but vital information should be on the data form to expedite compilations. Dale suggested a good concise bibliography would be helpful. Fees would include consultation on mapping, research & clerical services. **Deadline for submission of information will be Sept. 11.** Dale will start now to produce a “rough draft” which should come out in October, then collect revisions. Getting the mapping going will be very time consuming.

Andrea Renick-Bell asked if he wanted the Indian history of areas. His reply was “to the extent that it relates to the theme or sub theme such as multi cultural society. Remember this is not a Native American History Area, but in many cases, the Indian history was a key part of Bleeding Kansas.” Another question asked, “When and where does the story start?” We were asked to forget about dates and keep focused on the story unique to us, “Bleeding Kansas”. Keep in mind that our audience is Congress. Keep it concise so they will not be overwhelmed with history. Other stories can be added as we go along with our management plan. Kery Altenbernd stated it is our history that we are defining and we should think about the sub-themes, such as Indian History, Underground Railroad, etc. Judy reminded us not to censure ourselves. If you think you have something, send it to Dale and let him decide. We are not locking into a specific time and place, but settlement patterns.

Don't limit yourself yet, the feasibility study will make the determinations. Brown vs. Board of Education was national news and a part of the Enduring Struggle for Freedom. Anything you consider an icon for the story should be submitted on the data forms.

Brenda Day asked if we have a plan for preventing duplication. The answer, duplication is better than omission. Individually we need to contact others. If you know of events or areas that have not been participating and they should have a part in the story, contact them.

The Lawrence CVB is putting forward the initial monies for the feasibility study. Judy gave a presentation on Tuesday in Topeka to the Economic Development Committee that was very well received. They were receptive and asked what they can do to help, pledging legislative support in creating a state program for National Heritage Area. She will email to us the copy of her testimony to the legislature. This can be used to educate our communities. We need to collect letters of support in paper form from as many entities as possible. **We all need to share in the cost of the study, accepting any amount, be it \$100 or \$100,000.** The important thing is that all areas make a commitment. Territorial Kansas Heritage Area, a 501C-3 corporation, is willing to accept monies for this project.

Checks should be made to Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance with the memo: Bleeding Kansas NHA. Send to: Box 586, Lawrence, Ks. 66044 (Judy's office) Letters of support should be sent to same address in care of Lawrence CVB.

It was questioned, "What if a company could not make a donation but could only pay for services rendered?" It was suggested that Dave could come to make an Informative Presentation and be given an honorarium.

**Investment Levels:** Guidelines were recommended, if you leave it open ended you get no where. It was suggested:

**Counties and Cities:** consider investment by population. Suggested figure would be approximately 3 to 10 cents per person yearly with a minimum of 3 years.

**This is an investment in economical development.**

**The first commitments will go toward the Feasibility/Suitability Study.** What you ask for depends on your relationship. These are only guidelines. Ask for the moon! It's not the amount of \$\$\$\$ as much as the amount of support. Judy challenged, "Let's make the commitment to be involved". Eight of the thirteen members of the state's Committee on Economic Development are from the areas involved. Get to know them, talk to them, let them know you support the effort. Make corporate contacts, Judy will go with you.

Endangered sites should be referenced on the feasibility study. Wolf Creek is a division of Westar Energy, which is very supportive of environmental contributions. Find out if your counties have historical and cultural preservation funds, if not suggest they start one.

**We now have a web site:** BleedingKansasHeritageArea.com and BleedingKansasHeritageArea.org. Both are registered for 2 years at \$105 each. They are registered under Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance. At this time, no arrangements have been made for the site. They have only been registered.

**New Business:**

**What's in it for me:**

Increasing tourism, working together (team), creates pride in image, local and national, awareness of the story, job creation, downtown revitalization, raises importance of sites, makes the past part of the future, builds the experience around our story, brings new stewardship of resources, creates new supportive organizations, produces sales and development.

The question was asked if Marci Penner and the Explorers were informed and aware of our efforts. It was noted that she is very tuned in and supportive, just involved with finishing her guidebook at this time. Kerry Altenbernd gave an update on the Black Jack Battlefield Park purchase, stating that at this time they are on track with their funding.

Carol McDowell shared information on the Preservation Conference in Denver, Co. on Sept. 30 thru Oct. 5. It is possible to register by the day. Several expressed interest. It was suggested if you are interested in further information, you consult the web site at [www.mthp.org/conference](http://www.mthp.org/conference) and let Judy know if you are interested in attending.

Several group members made announcements of activities in their areas; Frannies in SE Kansas is now tracking visitors, 9 countries, 43 states and 243 Kansas towns have visiting there. Having actual numbers is important in documentation. Martha Parker invited interested parties to attend a meeting at the Clinton Museum on Sept. 4. A consultant from the Kansas Non Profit Assoc. will be meeting to discuss plans to add 2,500 sq. ft. to the museum. Sharole Prahl announced that the Maple Leaf committee and the Ballad committee have produced an 8 minute video promoting the Ballad of Black Jack to use in radio advertising.

**Next meeting: Baldwin City** at The Lodge, 502 Ames. It was suggested that perhaps we should meet in each location only once in order to acquaint committee members with more of the area.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Niehoff

