

Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance/Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area May 12, 2005, Meeting, Old Congregational Church, Fort Scott, Ks

Attendees:

Deborah Barker	Franklin Co. Historical Society	
Rebecca Phipps	Watkins Museum, Lawrence	
Kerry Lippincott	Watkins Museum, Lawrence	
Chris Meinhardt	Friends of Constitution Hall, Topeka	
Martha Parker	Clinton Lake Museum	
Darryl Roller	Fort Scott Community College	
Mary Asher	Mound City	
Kerry Altenbernd	Black Jack Battlefield Trust	
Jim Allen	Office of Congressman Jim Ryun	
Andrea Renick-Bell	Osawatomie Tourism	
Ola May Earnest	Linn Co. Historical Society	
Jim Miesner	Fort Scott Community College	
Arnold Schofield	Mine Creek Battlefield	
Bill Pollock	Fort Scott and Advisory Board	Member
Carolyn Green	Humboldt Civil War Days	
Elly McCoy	Chanute and Advisory Board Member	
Kelly Pearl	Pottawatomie Co. Economic Development	
Joan Richardson	Wilson Co. Historical Society	
Emma Crites	Fredonia Tourism	
Bill Freeman	LeRoy	
Alice Widner	Trading Post Museum	
Eileen Robertson	Humboldt Chamber Tourism	
John Nichols	Miami Co. Historical Society	
Judy Billings	Lawrence CVB	
Debbie White	Lawrence CVB	

INTRODUCTIONS: Judy Billings opened the meeting with “in absentia” greetings from John Daugherty, Superintendent at Fort Scott. Attendees were further welcomed by Richard Neinstedt, City of Fort Scott, and Jim Miesner, Bourbon County; Daryl Roller, Ft. Scott Community College; and NPS Ranger Arnold Schofield, former Fort Historian, who is now director at Mine Creek Battlefield. Fort Scott has five properties on the National Register.

It is hoped that increased interest in preservation at the local level will sweep throughout the Bleeding Kansas Area. Recently, the Preservation Association of Bourbon County saved an historic 1873 church from demolition and replacement by a McDonald’s. Arnold also mentioned that a Block House and the Fort Scott Depot are being preserved through grant assistance.

Attendees were told that recently burned and fire damaged buildings in downtown Fort Scott will be replaced by buildings bearing facades that will blend historically with their surroundings. The buildings behind the facades will have modern interiors, accommodating today’s business needs. Carolyn Green asked about the height of the lost buildings, pointing out that some had been 2 ½ to 3 stories. None of the new buildings will exceed 2 stories.

Judy introduced two visiting members of the BKNHA Advisory Board, Elly McCoy and Bill Pollock. Jim Allen from Jim Ryun's office was also present. Other attendees introduced themselves.

After honoring Chris Meinhardt's request that a State Preservation Conference Report be added to the Agenda, Judy declared the **Agenda approved.**

Motion to approve **April Minutes** by Bill Pollock, seconded by Kerry Altenbernd. **Motion carried.**

Financial Report given by Martha Parker: March 31st balance \$2,169.84 plus 58 cents interest. Present balance \$2,170.42.

Judy reported that in response to her recent call to fund BKNHA introductory brochure, she has received \$1,910.00 from these sources:

Key Industries, Fort Scott \$1000; Ft. Scott C of C Endowment \$200; SEKTR \$50; Humboldt Historical Society \$25; Eileen Robertson, Humboldt, \$500; Humboldt Chamber of Commerce \$25; Linn County \$60; Washburn University \$100; Wilson County \$50; Neosho County Commissioners \$100; Wilson County Commissioners \$100.

Judy also reported that \$50 has been sent to Ks History Day winner Brian Martin, Scammon, Kansas, for his documentary "John Brown Voice of Freedom."

The past, present and future generosity of Douglas County was recognized, and the fact that BKNHA would not exist without Douglas County was stated for the record.

Judy reported that File 990 submitted for TKHA's 501c3 status is still operational, no need to resubmit.

BKNHA Advisory Board has asked for a budget from the TKHA Steering Committee. Judy will prepare.

Old Business

Legislative Report: Before beginning report, Judy announced that the new Kansas Tourism Director, replacing Scott Allegrucci, is Becky Blake, former TIAK president and former CVB Director at Manhattan.

Judy then explained that La Rochelle Young from Senator Brownback's Office is negotiating with Senator Talent of Missouri regarding the BKNHA Bill over the amount of involvement Missouri will have in the Bleeding Kansas NHA. Two Kansas counties, Atchison and Jackson, not declared before, have been added. We recognize Cass, Bates and Vernon counties in Missouri as having legitimate stories related to Territorial Bleeding Kansas. Judy said that regardless of the Missouri negotiations outcome, Kansas established the BKNHA Bill as a Kansas Heritage Area, and we will manage the Area. We want it to be fluid, but we want it focused on pre-Civil War, the unique Bleeding Kansas period. Our feasibility study demonstrates Kansas' grassroots support, a required element in NHA designation.

This is a critical time in the political life of the Bill. If designated, partners will be notified by email.

Questions came to Judy in response to her testimony before the Senate. She responded. That document will be shared with BKNHA Planning Committee Members via email.

Governor Sebelius has written a letter in support of BKNHA designation.

Committee Reports:

UGRR: Chris Meinhardt said that Judith Wellman, New York State, has just begun a review of the UGRR brochure materials. After her editing and revisions, Chris hopes to have something to report at the Manhattan meeting in June.

Marketing: Introductory BKNHA brochure is temporarily on hold awaiting outcome of negotiations with Missouri.

Partnerships and Site Designation: John Nichols reported that Silos & Smokestacks NHA is correcting its criteria, tightening standards. We must set standards for our Area.

John gave criteria for 3 levels of participation:

Partners (sites open year round 5-7 days per week)

Associate Partners (open seasonally or partial days during the week)

Aspiring Partners/Point of Interest (These may be under development; for example, Quindaro and Black Jack Battlefield.)

John distributed worksheets for county reporting of site themes, requiring information: how the site fits the theme (15 words or less), a description of site (15 words or less) and hours of operation: including hours, days, months, seasonal.

This county criteria worksheet will be sent to participants via Microsoft Excel email. Transport worksheet info electronically by August 1 to Debbie White at visinfo@visitlawrence.com

Judy reminded attendees not to forget churches and cemeteries in identifying county heritage sites including all themes mentioned in the Feasibility Study.

Sue Pridemore will attend a future meeting and give a presentation on interpretation of sites.

Both The Feasibility Study **Addendums** will be emailed to partners. The one on County Landscapes will be helpful in preparing your county criteria worksheet.

Report on Preservation Conference: Chris Meinhardt said that Save America's Treasures encouraged looking for properties. Does a property have a relationship to national history? Start by checking with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office to see if it has national significance. Go to www.kshs.org/resource/shpostaff.htm

New Business

Museum Resources: Rebecca Phipps distributed materials from Kansas Museums Association, American Association of Museums, American Association for State and Local History and Mountain-Plains Museum Association. Each gave Membership rates, Benefits, Professional Development and Programs of Interest, including Museum Assessment and Evaluation. She encouraged individual memberships. Eventually, BKNHA will belong to KMA. KMA \$400 grants are competitive, but available.

Announcements:

*Emma Crites invited attendees to Fredonia's Gold Dust Days celebrating the 1885 completion of the Gold Dust Hotel, May 21st.

*Emma also reported an article in the June 2005 issue of *Wild West Magazine* on Upper Creek Opothleyahola's 1861-62 escape from Confederate Indian Territory into Free State Kansas.

*Mary Asher shared events of Mound City's Founder's Day celebration and announced a May 19th event at the Marais de Cyne site.

*Martha Parker reminded attendees of the Sesquicentennial Celebration at Clinton Lake, July 16th.

*Attendees applauded Ola May Ernest and Emma Crites for having received WE KAN awards May 7th from the Kansas Sampler Foundation at the Newton Kansas Sampler. Ola May was awarded for her outstanding museum, and Emma Crites received her award for outstanding community involvement in historical research, preservation and tourism.

*Chris Meinhardt announced that a National Register of Historic Places grant has been awarded to the Free State Capitol, awaiting letter of eligibility. He reminded us that there were 4 Territorial constitutional capitals, but the only Free State capital is Constitution Hall in Topeka.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Future Meetings: July 14, Baldwin City; August 11, Leavenworth; September 8, Ottawa, and October 13, LeRoy.

Thank you for bringing a hard copy of May Minutes and June Agenda to the NEXT MEETING AT MANHATTAN ON JUNE 9, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Robertson, Explorer #1450