

Freedom's Frontier

BLEEDING KANSAS HERITAGE AREA



Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area Minutes from the July 13, 2006 Meeting Clinton, KS- Clinton Presbyterian Church

Attendees:

<i>John Nichols</i>	<i>Miami Co. Historical Society</i>
<i>Sue Pridemore</i>	<i>National Park Service- MWRO</i>
<i>Bob Carlson</i>	<i>Marysville Main Street & Marshall Co Historical Society</i>
<i>Katie Carlgren</i>	<i>Wabaunsee Co. Economic Development</i>
<i>Mary Cummings</i>	<i>Shawnee CVB</i>
<i>Karen Crane</i>	<i>Merriam CVB</i>
<i>Alexis Radil</i>	<i>Mahaffie Stagecoach Site</i>
<i>Julie Mulvihill</i>	<i>Kansas Humanities Council</i>
<i>Clif Gordon</i>	<i>Wakefield Museum</i>
<i>Paul Bahnmaier</i>	<i>Lecompton Historical Society</i>
<i>Eileen Robertson</i>	<i>Humboldt Tourism</i>
<i>Peggy Clark</i>	<i>Osage Co. Economic Development</i>
<i>Diane Niehoff</i>	<i>Baldwin CVB</i>
<i>Chris Meinhardt</i>	<i>Constitution Hall- Topeka</i>
<i>Doug Jones</i>	<i>Shawnee Co. Historical Society</i>
<i>Leslie Rocha</i>	<i>Leavenworth County</i>
<i>Keyta Kelly</i>	<i>Leavenworth County</i>
<i>Julie Frisbie</i>	<i>Jefferson Co. Historical Society/Old Jefferson Town</i>
<i>Arnold W. Schofield</i>	<i>Mine Creek Battlefield</i>
<i>Don Traub</i>	<i>Traub Design Associates</i>
<i>Rebecca Phipps</i>	<i>Watkins Museum</i>
<i>Sue Gervasini</i>	<i>Leavenworth County</i>
<i>Hazel May Fackler</i>	<i>Leavenworth Co. Historical Society</i>
<i>Christian Lutz</i>	<i>Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Ron Harris</i>	<i>First Territorial Capital & Geary Co. Museum</i>
<i>Bill Freeman</i>	<i>City of LeRoy</i>
<i>Tamra Scheid</i>	<i>Visit Topeka, Inc.</i>
<i>Kenneth Asher</i>	<i>Mound City</i>
<i>Mary Asher</i>	<i>Mound City</i>
<i>Cheryl Collins</i>	<i>Riley Co. Historical Museum/ Goodnow House</i>
<i>Deborah Barker</i>	<i>Old Depot Museum/Ottawa</i>
<i>Martha Parker</i>	<i>Clinton Lake Museum</i>
<i>Judy Billings</i>	<i>Lawrence CVB</i>

Meeting was called to order by Judy Billings at 10:05am on Thursday, July 13, 2006.

Welcome: Attendees were welcomed by Martha Parker of the Clinton Lake Museum. Ms. Parker spoke briefly on the history of the area and its relevance to the Heritage Area story and her life. Attendees were invited to visit the museum after our meeting and lunch.

Introductions of Attendees

Committee Breakout Sessions:

RESOURCES/LANDSCAPES

The Freedom's Frontier Resource and Landscapes team reviewed the questions found on the Management Plan handout (distributed 6/8/06) that we felt our team needed to address. The questions include:

#13. How do you make sure any projects that have federal funds meet the compliance requirements for NEPA (environmental) and 106 (historical/cultural)? Who signs the legal documents?

#14. How do you decide who is telling the most important story?

#15. How do you decide that the story is being told to the quality, consistency, accuracy, and fun that you feel best represents your region?

#18. How do you decide whether or not a site is contributing to the regional story instead one that does not contribute to it?

#19. What do you do when a site changes their story away from yours but is being promoted side-by-side with the rest?

Some discussion happened over our list-serv regarding #14. We agreed that perhaps this question would be better worded differently. It's not that there is one most important story. Rather, we need to help identify the strongest stories Freedom's Frontier should tell, and who might best tell them, or how might participants be encouraged to connect to those stories.

At our meeting, John Nichols distributed the SITES BY TOPIC inventory of those locations submitted a year ago as part of the criteria worksheet. To remember:

- a. This is an incomplete list,
- b. We have to rely on local entities to take responsibility for identifying those locations in their immediate region,
- c. We need to continue cultivating relationships with those locations/sites/destinations that need to be included,
- d. This is a working document,
- e. The group will continue to take submissions,
- f. This particular document is not intended to be made public at this time,
- g. Critical that we begin thinking about those Missouri sites that need to be included.

As a result:

- a. Arnold Schofield (who is already working on a bi-state tour in his

- region) will submit some of the Missouri sites he knows.
- b. John is going to send the original criteria handout to Debbie for distribution to the entire Freedom's Frontier group so that more sites can be submitted,
 - c. John is going to send the existing Sites inventory list to Debbie for distribution to the entire Freedom's Frontier group just as a review,
 - d. Team members are asked to provide Julie/John with 1-sentence descriptors of sites listed on the inventory list. This information can be taken directly from the original criteria list (which we hope team members still kept copies of). This will help everyone become more familiar with what is listed so that we can more easily begin tackling some of the questions posed above.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Civic Engagement Team engaged in discussion through the listserv prior to this meeting. Katie Carlgren, the facilitator presented questions to us and we answered them as follows:

1. How do we define success? Success is defined as follows: When the citizens living within the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area know that they are living within it and know what it is; when folks living outside of the Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area know what it is, where it is, what it is and want to go there.
2. What resources are needed to be successful? First and most importantly, we need the designation "National Heritage Area". Secondly, we need sites of interest within the area. Thirdly, we need money to promote the area. Finally, we need people to do the legwork.

On today's date we adopted these objectives and then developed a Plan of Action to accomplish them. The plan is:

1. We will first develop a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation should include:
 - a. history of the effort
 - b. where we are now
 - c. how you can be a partner
 - d. what's in it for you

Karen Crane and Mary Cummings volunteered to develop the presentation.

2. We will also send a questionnaire to each member of the Freedom's Frontier Group to ascertain the target groups in their community. Katie Carlgren volunteered to develop the questionnaire and to e-mail it out.
3. We will then add these groups through their contact person to a general contact list and keep them updated through e-newsletters or the like.
4. We will, at the same time, identify which groups or organizations want us to come and make a presentation.
5. We will add the PowerPoint presentation to the web page and brainstorm about the other items that should be added to the webpage, i.e. legislative support, an update on the designation process, testimonial section, committee members' names and e-mail addresses, etc.

BUILDING BRIDGES

The name of the committee changed from Missouri Bridges to Building Bridges. Alexis spoke about the last meeting of the Missouri-Kansas Border Network, 1850s-1860s. The Network is in the process of adopting by-laws, establishing a 501 (c) 3, and having a regular meeting schedule. She invited members of the Freedom's Frontier to the meeting Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop is hosting for the Missouri-Kansas Border Network on Saturday, September 16, 2006, from 10am-12pm.

Judy Billings invited members to a meeting being held on Thursday, July 27, 2006, from 10am-1pm in Nevada, MO. This meeting is being coordinated by Terry Ramsey, Director of the Bushwhacker Museum in Nevada. Members of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) will also be there. MARC is an association with members from city and county governments and is the metropolitan planning organization for the bi-state Kansas City region. Terry organized the meeting by inviting historical societies, and chambers from Missouri counties included in the legislation to designate the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. Judy will be speaking on the progress of the legislation and the next steps.

Questions from Sue Pridemore from the National Park Service the other committees presented were tabled in order to discuss the upcoming meetings. The committee will discuss those during the Freedom's Frontier meeting next month.

Agenda Approval: It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as presented.

Financial Report: Martha Parker reported a balance of \$1,702.79 in the group's checking account.

Legislative Update: Judy Billings reported that the bill is ready to go on the suspension calendar; hopefully next week. The bill will go from the House to the Senate exactly the same, no changes. She encouraged everyone to personally thank Representative Jim Ryun for his effort with this bill. Judy also read a thank you note from Olivia, the student from Wamego that won the essay contest.

Committee Reports:

Tours- Chaired by Don Traub. The tour committee will now be meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 2:30-3:30pm. Locations will rotate around the area. They are in the process of setting goals, developing a mission statement and trying to get their "arms" around all counties with themes and trying to chart with a map to get people traveling.

Website- Chaired by Tristan Smith. Tristan was not present, but Judy Billings commented on his behalf. The new logo needs to be on the website and there are several other additions and corrections to take place. It will take funds to get the website up to where it needs to be, this should be considered. The civic engagement committee will be working closely with the website committee on suggestions.

Museum Research- Nothing to Report. Clarification on who the committee consist of and who it is being chaired by is needed. Rebecca Phipps will investigate.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Partner Site Designation: John Nichols presented the Partner Site Designation document and commented on feedback he had from the group. He also expressed his appreciation of the committee for their diligent work. Much discussion took place on various items including terminology and the site review. Judy Billings reminded the group that this is similar to bylaws and can be revisited and changed at a later time; this is a starting point. It was moved by Doug Jones and seconded by Julie Frisbie to accept the Partner Site Designation document with the discussed corrections. Doug Jones expressed gratitude to John and his committee for their tremendous work on this piece.

Management Plan: Sue Pridemore with the National Park Service discussed the management plan and the group's direction with that. She reiterated, "it is YOUR plan", then the firm helps to make that plan successful! She encouraged us to write questions about the plan for the plan. There are management plans on the National Park Service website (www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/). The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor management plan is the only one that has withstood 15 years; most others have been revisited in their time of existence. She stressed that all management plans are different and it's okay to revisit them after some time; it's important that the plan works for our area.

Sue also recommended some reading: "Outside Lies Magic" by John R. Stilgoe. The book explains how to effectively tell the story in a heritage area, as well as regaining history and awareness in everyday places.

Sue also suggested membership in the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). She feels it would be extremely beneficial to individuals in our group. She passed around a publication of the group. The NAI website is: <http://www.interpnet.com/>.

Sue Pridemore shared that Smokestacks & Silos will use some of our things as an example because they are so well-done.

Committee Listserv: Julie Mulvihill discussed using the listservs for our committees and how it works to help the groups.

Adjournment: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:35pm.