



**Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area
Minutes from August 10, 2006
Kansas State Historical Society History Center, Topeka, Kansas**

Welcome and introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Judy Billings at 10:00 a.m. Thursday August 10, 2006 at the Pottawatomie Koch Mission at the Kansas State Historical Society History Center. Attendees were welcomed and each introduced themselves

Attendees:

Hazel May Fackler	Leavenworth County Historical Society
Julie Mulvihill	Kansas Humanities Council
Bob Keckeisen	Kansas State Historical Society
Clif Gordon	Wakefield Museum
Ron Harris	1 st Terr. Capital & Geary County Museum
Deborah Barker	Old Depot Museum, Ottawa
Emily Kotay	Old Depot Museum, Ottawa
Sonia Smith	Franklin County CVB
Stan Lawson	Atchison CVB
Cheryl Thorp	Platte County Missouri CVB
Keyta D Kelly	Leavenworth
Leslie Rocha	Leavenworth
Paul Bahnmaier	Territorial Capital, Lecompton
Julie Frisbie	Jefferson County Historical Society
Diane Niehoff	Black Jack Battlefield Trust
Mary & Ken Asher	Linn Co. – Mound City
Cheryl Collins	Riley County Historical Museum
Elly McCoy	Chanute Travel Tourism Radio Show
Kerry Altenbernd	Black Jack Battlefield Trust
Martha Parker	Clinton Lake Museum
Arnold Schofield	Mine Creek Battlefield
Don & Susan Traub	Traub Design Assoc.
Peggy Stanton	Doniphan County
Christian Lutz	Fort Scott Chamber
Alexis Radil	Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop
Emma Crites	Fredonia Tourism
Bill Freeman	LeRoy
Eileen Robertson	Humboldt
Dennis Toll	Manhattan CVB
Tamra Scheid	Visit Topeka Inc.
Fred Leimkyhler	Tonganoxie

Attendees cont.

Erin Jeschke	Pottawatomie County Econ. Dev.
Dennis Vasquez	NPS State Coordinator
Doug Jones	Shawnee County Historical Society
Debbie White	Lawrence CVB
John Nichols	Miami County Historical Society
Nova Cottrell	Charles Curtis House Museum, Topeka
Terry Ramsey	Bushwhacker Museum, Nevada, MO
Judy Billings	Lawrence CVB

Remembrance – Andrea Renick-Bell:

Judy Billings noted with regret the July 16, 2006 death of Andrea Renick-Bell, Site Administrator at John Brown Museum State Historic Site and long time member of the group. Judy requested a moment of silence in Andrea’s memory.

Committee Meetings:

Breakout meetings were then held for the three committees: Building Bridges, Civic Engagement and Resources and Landscapes.

KCPT Television Program:

KCPT television is working on a television program entitled BAD BLOOD concerning Missouri and Territorial Kansas in the period directly preceding the Civil War. A brief introduction to this television program was viewed. More on this upcoming television program will be available later.

Approval of Agenda and July 13, 2006 Minutes:

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Doug Wallace moved that the minutes of July 13, 2006 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Ron Harris. The motion passed.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Martha Parker reported that she had not yet received a bank statement. Since no activity has occurred since last time, the balance should be as reported in July, \$1,702.79 plus a small amount of interest. Judy noted that she had just received a statement and that was what her statement reflected. Judy also noted that \$1,000.00 of that balance is earmarked for the Underground Railroad brochure expense.

Legislative Update:

Judy reported that Senate Bill 203 passed through the House of Representatives July 24, 2006. Representative Ryan worked very hard on this legislation and his efforts should be recognized with our thanks. The bill must now pass the Senate again because of the changes made in the House. The Senate is in recess and will reconvene after Labor Day. Judy encouraged those present to encourage our Senators to support this bill. You might wish to e-mail their office and leave a message expressing your interest in this bill and your appreciation for any help they

might be able to give to its passage. Judy gave her thanks to members of the group that have already expressed their appreciation to Representative Ryan for his help.

Committee Reports:

Building Bridges Committee – Paul Bahnmaier reported on the meeting held in Nevada, Missouri July 27 coordinated by Terry Ramsey, Director of the Bushwhacker Museum. Those attending felt it was a very exciting meeting and that there was great interest by those present in participating in Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. The Missouri Civil War Association seemed pleased with the Missouri Counties that were to be involved. Alexis Radil reported that the next meetings will be August 16 at the Harris Kearny House and November 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, Olathe. It was suggested that we make a concerted effort to get all Kansas and Missouri Freedom’s Frontier participants together at least once or twice a year. Don Traub discussed promoting history and economic development together.

Civic Engagement – This committee has developed a power point presentation. Today they discussed additions and changes to the presentation and they hope to be able to present it at our Sept. meeting. They are also developing a list of possible partners for engaging support (such as City or County governments, Chambers of Commerce, Historical Societies, Senior Citizen groups, Civic Clubs, media etc.) and are working on a “partner engagement form” for use in collecting contact information. They will send out a form for the group to fill out with possible partners in the next month.

Resources and Landscape- Julie Frisbie reported that Julie Mulvihill and John Nichols co-chaired the meeting. Julie Mulvihill brought for all who wish to have a copy the Native American Resource Handbook prepared by the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and a copy of Standards and Practices for Historical Site Administrators prepared by the Tri-State Coalition for Historic Places (Greater Philadelphia.) Both of these publications might be useful to us as we work on resource and landscape development. This committee is working on an inventory of public access sites, with a brief description. Arnold Schofield has prepared a list of Missouri sites of interest as a beginning inventory for those sites. The committee discussed private and public sites, noting that our group is interested in working with willing partners and has no wish to infringe on any private landowner. The committee discussed the need to eventually have a formal process developed that would allow privately owned sites to give written permission for their site to be promoted as part of the heritage area. The committee also discussed the NEPA and 106 review process (which are triggered by federally funded projects that affect a National Register property.)

Old Business

Continuing with the Management Plan- Sue Pridemore, Heritage Partnership Coordinator for the National Park Service, asked how many among us wondered - what is a management plan? Many of the group acknowledged wondering this question. Sue described the management plan as the vision of our heritage area and said that the management plan is developed through a dialog among the participants in the area. The dialog addresses the twenty questions (outlined in the minutes of July 13, 2006) and others to develop the plan. Your plan shows your intentions

for the Heritage Area. The Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Area calls their plan a management/action plan because it also includes action items, which might be useful to consider. Sue gave the group the handout “Management Plans Annotated Framework” This handout outlines the parts needed in a management plan, which are:

Statement of Significance - builds on the outline of our story given in our feasibility study. The statement of significance is where we make our case for national significance through our various themes.

Interpretive /Educational Plan – this part tells the story and tells how sites, businesses, and the other willing partners will participate.

Marketing/Tourism Plan – outlines how we will promote and develop our area.

Resource Management Plan- how we will address historic, natural and recreation resources.

Business Plan- the financial plan for the organization.

Heritage Development Plan- plan for development of the heritage product we will offer visitors.

Civic Engagement Plan- empowers residents and encourages a dialog that respects all opinions and encourages all ideas.

Sue emphasized that heritage areas are a process more than a place. Heritage areas are made up of people who want their area to move forward successfully and provide a great place for their grandchildren to live and work in the future by encouraging development into the type of place they would want to be. To do this all perspectives are needed, and everyone’s story needs to be included. To engage others start by looking at the question from their perspective; look at what they need.

In discussion, Judy Billings suggested that the group think in a broad perspective and look at how all of our individual places connect together through common themes. John Nichols pointed out that we need to focus on what makes each of our places special and significant and note the connections between those significant places.

There was also discussion of the economic development component of Heritage Areas and how to avoid crass commercialization. Sue suggested trying to make such situations into a win – win situation. Kerry Altenbernd suggested that those situations might be used to actually help develop more local visibility and connections in place names and identifications that would help to celebrate the community’s unique local heritage.

Discussion ensued about the term “Bleeding Kansas”, its use and the relationship of the term to Missouri. The Freedom’s Frontier story has many perspectives and our goal is to include as many perspectives as possible in telling the story. The use of the title “Freedom’s Frontier” opens up possible thematic opportunities. Though the title of the Heritage Area does not use the phrase “Bleeding Kansas” it certainly may be appropriate to use in some of the interpretation of the area. It was pointed out that it is very positive to have Missouri and Kansas working together to tell all parts of this important story and the border between the two states is less important when the focus is on the nationally significant story. Our discussion of the issues important to our story will continue through out the process of developing the Heritage Area

Paul Bahnmaier was asked to report on his visit to the Silos and Smokestacks Heritage Area. He visited this area with his family to learn more about how Heritage Areas operated. He had difficulty finding people (even in designated visitor centers) who knew about the Heritage Area

and could tell him about it knowledgeably. He did see signs that designated the area. His experiences prompted discussion about promotion, economic development, and the importance of looking at our Heritage Area from the perspective of an outside visitor. Sue mentioned that Silos and Smokestacks Area is currently working on their communication plan.

Committee Reports:

Tours- Don Traub reported that the Tours Committee meets monthly and is moving forward on working on three levels of tours: Motor Coach, Family, and Tour Packages. The Committee has discussed adding themes, such as the Frontier Trails theme. The next meeting is scheduled August 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Visitors Center. The Committee is looking at the possibility of moving the meetings to a more central location.

Celebration/Conclusion:

Sue Pridemore noted that she is very excited about the progress that Freedom's Frontier has made toward becoming a Heritage Area and that she is especially pleased that we had participation from the Missouri Counties today. Sue will be very happy to bring a van next time to transport people, if that would be helpful and she is willing to look over drafts of projects, giving an outsiders point of view. She said she would give us her frank opinion, if asked. She can be reached at: Sue Pridemore, Heritage Partnership Coordinator, National Park Service Midwest Regional Office 601 Riverfront Drive Omaha, Nebraska 68102 (402) 661-1566 (phone) (402) 661-1567 (fax) (402) 305-6606 (cell) email sue_pridemore@nps.gov.

In final announcements it was noted that a new mural on Bleeding Kansas is being painted in Leavenworth County.

The 14th Annual Civil War on the Western Frontier event will be in Lawrence August 10 – 21. Fredonia is hosting the Kansas High School Rodeo Finals August 25 – 26 and admission is free (it was suggested you bring \$5.00 to purchase a Humboldt Souvenir calendar.)

Black Jack Battlefield has a very few of the commemorative afghans left (cost \$35.00) available today.

The group adjourned for lunch. (Thank you to Tamra Scheid, Topeka CVB for arranging lunch and to the Kansas State Historical Society for our meeting place.)

The next meeting will be September 14, 2006 at Old Jefferson Town, Oskaloosa.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Cheryl Collins, Acting Secretary