



Partnership Meeting Notes
August 9, 2007
Wentworth Military Academy
Lexington, MO

Judy Billings welcomed everyone to the Partnership Meeting. Then she introduced the dignitaries attending the meeting: Captain Read, President and Superintendent of Wentworth Military Academy; Col. Lierman, Exec. Vice President; Tom Hayes, Lexington, Missouri Mayor; Don Borgman, Lexington City Administrator and Exec. Director Economic Development Lafayette County.

Partnership team then introduced themselves and it was noted that almost all 41 counties were represented. Judy Billings recounted the background of FFNHA then introduced Karen McCarthy, FFNHA Board of Trustees and former U.S. Rep. fifth district of Missouri from 1995 – 2004 and Judge Deanell Tacha, Chair of FFNHA Board of Trustees.

Deanell Tacha spoke to the group about how the FFNHA Board of Trustees will work closely with the Partners and one of the Boards roles is to be an advocate for the Partners. They are very grateful to the Partners for the work of beginning to connect the stories and telling them with integrity. Deanell assured the partners the Board will not tell you how to run your individual sites. One of the responsibilities of the Board is to raise money, first for the Management Plan, office and staff. The board is organizing and building a structure and base to make FFNHA work possible and to work in cooperation with the Partners and future staff. It was announced the Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt and Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius have agreed to be Honorary Co-Chairs for Freedom's Frontier. Deanell praised Judy Billings for all her hard work and dedication to FFNHA. Deanell noted that because of her position as a Judge she cannot raise money but will continue to advocate for the area.

John Dillingham, Vice Chair of FFNHA Board of Trustees introduced Congressman Ike Skelton saying, Con. Skelton has had many titles historian, prosecutor, Phi Beta Kappa, Senator, Mr. Chairman and Congressman for Missouri's 4th District since 1977.

Con. Skelton thanked Dillingham for the introduction and welcomed everyone to Lexington. Con. Skelton grew up in Lexington and is a graduate from Wentworth Military Academy. He has a passion for history and considers it to be a hobby. Because of his knowledge of the area's history he joked that it is a miracle that both Missourians and Kansans are peacefully in the same room, at least so far.

Con. Skelton asked “What makes America great?” If Russia had had a John Adams, George Washington, or a Thomas Jefferson then they would have been as great as America.

His son was an Eagle Scout and on a trip to Gettysburg stopped at site of Pickett’s Charge and stated who cares. Expressed that we need to understand the feelings of those people and their dedication to a cause.

Con. Skelton talked about the 1782 attack on Bryan Station, KY by the Shawnee Indians and how it was fortunate that Daniel Boone’s nephew, Squire Boone, survived the ambush. Squire eventually settled in Missouri. Con. Skelton stated he is grateful Squire survived as this is the lineage from which he is descended.

American is made up of many different kinds of people.....

Midwest roots.....

Con. Skelton went on to congratulate the FFNHA Partners for their efforts and thanked the group for inviting him to attend.

The floor was opened to questions to the attending Board members.

- Ellery Robertson stated his frustration with schools today only teaching for the test and not the history.
Deanell Tacha responded and assured everyone that one of the elements of FFNHA will be to engage school districts and assist them by providing materials, tours through cooperation with the Missouri and Kansas Departments of Education and both states Humanities Councils.
- The Richard Sunderwirth asked Deanell Tacha if he heard her say "We are only one generation away from losing the historical stories. She replied that was what she said and that we rectify that by drawing together to tell a unified story, draw together to preserve the stories and leave a legacy for generations to come.

Dillingham added that he grew up going to Gettysburg, Mount Vernon, and Monticello. It is up to us to promote the area, so we don’t lose the stories, by educating our local/area children, Economic Development, bringing visitors to the area. He stated that this is a passion of Congressman Skelton. And thanked Marci Bennett for her work in Tourism for the State of Missouri.

- Deanell also added that we must work in the spirit of trust, by being advocates for each other and to improve and connect our sites.

Group took a 15 minute break.

Upon return Judy Billings began by acknowledging the role Con. Skelton played in FFNHA’s designation and that we could not have done it without him. She went on to

say that the Management Plan will cost approximately \$300,000 and it is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to raise the money.

Judy informed the group about a two-day conference she attended earlier in the week that involved all 10 new National Heritage Areas, learning about how to structure their Management Plans. Cheryl Hargrove and Jeffery Bruce also attended the conference; they represent National Geographic Center for Sustainable Destinations, who were hired to create FFNHA's Management Plan. The mgmt. plan is a public process and all will have a say. They are looking a January 2008 as the 1st public meeting date. Time and place will be announced at a later date.

Our November meeting will include all partners and the Board of Trustees.

Business meeting began by acceptance of the July minutes, moved by Eileen Robertson and seconded by Michael Stubbs.

Financial Report – Martha Parker was not in attendance and Judy reported it remained unchanged from June. Kansas Tourism awarded a grant of \$75,000 to FFNHA with a 60/40 match and MARC is working on making a donation.

Committee Report:

Tours – Don Traub reported that the committee meets the last Wednesday of the month, and everyone is invited to join them. Currently working on John Brown tour, which is in the can, Civil War tour is a large project and is on going. Next tours will include Native Americans, and Territorial Capitol in Kansas.

Website – Debbie White reported that we are continuing to update the site and reminded everyone to enter their events on the site.

Peer Review – Debbie White reported that the committee will visit and review all the sites in Lafayette County after the meeting today. Members include Keyta Kelly, Alinda Miller, Alexis Radil, Eileen Robertson, Brandi Brinegar and Debbie White. We will continue reviews sites of the 150 in phase one. But if you have not submitted your site please do so, on the web site, www.freedomsfrontier.org/partners.

Also noted was the need for all private property owners that want to have their site included in FFNHA must sign an Opt In/Out letter, copies available today and will soon be on the website. It is vitally important that any site on private property must have the signed document on file. There has been one complaint and it stirred up a hornets nest, the story is important but that does not take away the importance of personal property rights.

J.C. Tellefson, LV County Commissioner, stated they we need to consider contacting our local planning & zoning regarding the impact a rural site might have roads.

As stated in our legislation *SEC. 6. PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.(a) Access to Private Property- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any private property owner to permit public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private lands.*

- (b) *Liability- Designation of the Heritage Area shall not be considered to create any liability, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any persons injured on such private property.*
- (c) *Recognition of Authority to Control Land Use- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify any authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.*
- (d) *Participation of Private Property Owners in Heritage Areas- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Heritage Area to participate in or be associated with the Heritage Area.*
- (e) *Land Use Regulation-*
- (1) *IN GENERAL- The local coordinating entity shall provide assistance and encouragement to State and local governments, private organizations, and persons to protect and promote the resources and values of the Heritage Area.*
- (2) *EFFECT- Nothing in this Act--*
- (A) *affects the authority of the State or local governments to regulate under law any use of land; or*
- (B) *grants any power of zoning or land use to the local coordinating entity.*
- (f) *Private Property-*
- (1) *IN GENERAL- The local coordinating entity shall be an advocate for land management practices consistent with the purposes of the Heritage Area.*
- (2) *EFFECT- Nothing in this Act--*
- (A) *abridges the rights of any person with regard to private property;*
- (B) *affects the authority of the State or local government regarding private property; or*
- (C) *imposes any additional burden on any property owner.*
- (g) *Requirements for Inclusion of Private Property-*
- (1) *NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS REQUIRED- No privately owned property shall be preserved, conserved, or promoted by the management plan for the Heritage Area until the owner of that private property has been notified in writing by the management entity and has given written consent for such preservation, conservation, or promotion to the management entity.*
- (2) *LANDOWNER WITHDRAWAL- Any owner of private property included within the boundary of the Heritage Area shall have their property immediately removed from the boundary by submitting a written request to the management entity*

Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director of the Kansas Humanities Council, spoke about the need to keep both maps to raise and expand perspective. Last month's hand-out defining freedom and the story.

Defining freedom – equality, choices, standing up for beliefs

Concept of freedom's frontier – it's your story

Interpretive and marketing hook

No right or wrong

Did it fit? Does it work?

Carmaletta Williams will speak on "Free did not mean Welcome" at next month's meeting.

Sue Pridemore said this is an example of how you can do it...how to organize, don't get locked into 3 central words/phrase.

Julie said it's like writing a novel: know your setting, main characters, and minor characters, stir the pot and then there is something that moves through and engages the reader. Overarching theme of that human experience.

Future meeting:

September MARC (new location will need to be selected – MARC will host at a later date.

October Lecompton volunteered

November meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Trustees and the date will change to November 15th because of the National Interpretation Workshop in Wichita on November 6-10, 2007.

December meeting is open for hosting.

Announcements:

Lone Jack Commemoration Aug 18th

Beecher Bible Church Aug. 26th 150th Anniversary celebration

Civil War on the Western Frontier, Lawrence, Aug 9-21

General Pleasanton Day October 6

Moonlight tour of Mine Creek Battlefield October 13

Fort Scott NHS will have its sesquicentennial next year, “Dreams & Dilemmas”

Jesse James film coming out this year.

Suggested Books for the month:

Our Documents – 100 milestone documents from National Archives. Pres. Bush “Our story is a story of imperfect people working towards great ideas.” Helps capture perspective.

The Border Between Them by Jeremy Neeley

Jim Lane Scoundrel & Statesman by Robert Collins

Jesse James, by TJ Stiles

Break for lunch

Julie Mulvihill introduced Fred Krebs a humanities professor at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, portrays Stephen A. Douglas, the U. S. senator who authored the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Krebs has presented characterizations of historical figures including explorer John C. Fremont and artist William Merritt Chase in 18 states.

Fred Krebs began the workshop by speaking about defining Freedom.

We are in the process of continually working out definitions. Historians fit data into definitions....this is never complete.

FFNHA partners need to continually ask themselves “How do my events add in to the definitions and/or interaction of freedom & frontier.

These are the driving forces behind American History...freedom.

Freedom was a process of will, conquest & force usually benefiting only a few. It was a process of self governing---liberty, assertion of will only within limits of the law.

Frontier was a threat fortified through expansion & conquest.

Freedom was established on settlement not through conquest.

Freedom & frontier were two driving forces in US history.

Freedom = sovereignty

Frontier = process to reach it

Expansion, enterprise guided by education in the concept of government by consent. The responsibilities of liberty...governed by reason, by law codified land (property), law & liberty.

Definitional trips:

- 1) Lewis & Clark
- 2) Zebulon Pike

1821 – MO Compromise – a way of protecting compromise in the US Senate. Wm Bicknell, Boonville, sent mule trains through the territory to the emerging Republic of Mexico...Santa Fe Trail.

Free enterprise began the development of Missouri.
Santa Fe Trail developed the enterprise of Missouri.

Expanding definition of freedom:

- Self sufficiency
- Education
- Laws

Native American attacks on Santa Fe Trail....no settlement allowed in Indian land.
Treaties allowed for settlement.

1850 – 15 slave states, 15 free

*California wanted in the Union

*Henry Clay & Stephen Douglas (Chm, committee on territories) authored KS-Nebraska Act of 1854. Privately, Douglas never thought slavery would be voted out. He thought slavery was an economic issue.

Lincoln believed slavery was a moral issue.

We are a product of an ongoing dialogue over issues of freedom & how it played out on the frontier.

We operate under “forms of law.”

We depend on public education to put it all in perspective.

QUESTION:

Frontier - # of people went through here....trails & railroads.

RESPONSE:

Homestead Act of 1862
Transportation Act of 1862
Memorial Act of 1862
(Set up land-grant educational institutions)

QUESTION:

What about the “philosophical” frontier?

RESPONSE:

5 “e’s” set up a democratic republic
Expansion (land redefined)
Enterprise/economy
Education
Equality
Ethics

Education – survey systems (36 sq miles/township) = land grant colleges

THESE WERE AMONG A NUMBER OF DEFINITIONS THAT CONVERGED ON THE FRONTIER.

QUESTION (in my group):

Freedom’s Frontier – What specifically can we claim?
What’s the promise of Freedom’s Frontier?
The name should define the promise.

Fred – Conflict is a key element that creates a strength & discipline in understanding freedom, equality, liberty in the way they address it.

There is a search for understanding and defining freedom.

Fred: “3 e’s lead to a greater consequence of equality = Expansion, Enterprise/economy, Education.

Frontiers represented opportunity – 2nd & 3rd chances

Freedom = Liberty, governed by reason

Perfect society vs. freedom = conflict

Liberty = civilized freedom for all...based on law, equality & common good of all community. (Rampant freedom brings about chaos!)

Landscape changes affected freedoms.

Questions – statements from the floor:

JRM seeing frontier as a place where new ideas are formulated & tested, old ideas meet new, hope vs. fear/threat. Chance to make things better and an opportunity for utopia.

Eileen Robertson - Philosophical frontier: child labor laws, miner's rights, women's rights, and desegregated education.

Fred 3 E's Expansion, Enterprise (economy) Education
Freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of religion.

Partners broke into small groups to continue the discussion of Freedom and Frontier.

Groups report on discussion

- 1) This is the frontier of freedom: what is unique and authentic.
Fred responded – results here go into 2 generations, testing definition, Note the Latter Day Saints experience.
- 2) What do Kansas & Missouri have in common
- 3) Need to see the big picture, constantly developing
- 4) What happened...both sides felt justified in the 1850's. Tell your story but don't talk about who's right or wrong. Make the visitor think.
- 5) More than one perspective. Make to think today, help visitor think, let them decide.
- 6) Federal intervention & meddling needs to be remembered.
Fred responded – how search for understanding defined freedom. How are people finding their way to understand freedom, emphasis on the contribution.
Focus on community not just tourism, embrace what you already have.
- 7) Mission drift – get our arms around the concept of the 3E's how our sites makes the rest possible. Revisit the core occurrences, don't judge, just give the facts.
How do we get those within and without to get it...frustration. Need core concepts
- 8) Driving force – quest for freedom and American history. Freedom moves from concept – forged – expanding opportunity. Ideal visitor comes to point A, goes to point B and explores the story. Need road map to help. Stay with our unique story and expand your thinking.
- 9) Lofty concepts & philosophy will govern most people site by site. KISS – Keep it simple stupid. Backbone, interesting, educational, entertaining, relevant
- 10) 3E's look at sites
- 11) Suggests expanding types of sites beyond Border War to interpret. Themes:
Freedom when freedom goes to crisis, civility break down, decline into barbarism before returning. Push toward perfection.
- 12) Landscapes and changes...needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

13) Focus on quality; conflict brings change, ethics, and focus on themes development.

Judy Billings wrapped up the discussion stating we need to focus on community, how we live in the landscape and effects. Living, breathing, changing landscape. Look to what we should promise the visitors – a quality experience.

Meeting adjourned.

Attendees:

St. Clair Co. Hist. Soc.	Jack Harris
Lexington Tourism	Roger Slushes
Lexington	Bill and Devoren Tempel
Richard Allen Cultural Center	Phyllis Bass
Kansas Tourism	Regina Nicol
Johnson County Museum	Stephanie Clayton
	Tom Hayes
City of Lexington	Don Borgman
	Jim Beckner
Cass County Hist. Soc.	Carol Bohl
NPS	Sue Pridemore
Lone Jack	Alinda Miller
Lone Jack	Peggy Buhr
Constitution Hall Topeka	Chris Meinhardt
Topeka	Joanne Harrison
Overland Park CVB	Amy Garton
Merriam CVB	Karen Crane
Shawnee CVB	Mary Cummings
Wabaunsee Co. Hist. Soc.	Michael Stubbs
Missouri Tourism	Mike Murray
Confederate Museum	Kay Russell
St. Joe CVB	Marcie Bennett
St. Joe CVB	Beth Whitechurch
Missouri Tourism	Lori Simms
Missouri Tourism	Amanda Wokurka
Doniphan Co. Hist. Soc.	Pat Dill
Doniphan Co. Hist. Soc	Peggy Stanton
Visit Topeka, Inc.	Tamra Scheid
1 st Terr. Cap. & Geary Co.	Ron Harris
Wakefield Museum	Clif Gordon
Leavenworth Co. Hist. Soc.	Sally Hatcher
Waverly Arts Council	Charlene McFadden
	Elaine Marsh
Waverly Citizens for Progress	John Hinz
Leavenworth Co. Hist. Soc.	Sue Gervasini
Leavenworth Co. Hist. Soc.	Audrey Campbell
Leavenworth Co.	J.C. Tellefson

KS Humanities Council	Tracy Quillin
Ray County	Karen Bush
Humboldt Chamber & Tourism	Eileen Robertson
Humboldt Civil War Days	Ellery Robertson
St. Clair Co. Hist. Soc.	Richard Sunderwirth
St. Clair Co. Hist. Soc.	Robert Reed
Riley Co. Historical Museum	Cheryl Collins
MO Humanities Council	Michele Hansford
Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop	Alexis Radil
Old Depot Museum	Deborah Barker
Traub Design	Don Traub
Excelsior Springs Chamber	Terry Soneleer
Bushwhacker Museum	Terry Ramsey and Gary Chilcoe
Mound City Hist. Soc.	Ken & Mary Asher
Linn Co. Hist. Soc.	Ola May Earnest
Fredonia Tourism	Emma Crites
Johnson Co. Hist. Soc.	Lisa Irle
Battle of Lexington	Janae Fuller
Lexington Chamber	Ann Crume
Leavenworth Co.	Keyta Kelly
Lecompton Hist. Soc.	Paul Bahnmaier
Pottawatomie Co. Eco. Dev.	Brandi Brinegar
Leavenworth Co. Hist. Soc.	Hazel Mae Fackler
Black Jack Battlefield Trust	Kerry Altenbernd
KS Humanities Council	Julie Mulvihill
Jefferson Co. Hist. Soc.	Julie Frisbie
Freeman Heritage	Charles & Peggy Sands II
Stoll's Art Gallery & Studio	Don & Jean Stoll
Mine Creek Battlefield	Arnold Schofield
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Elder Penrod and Elder Haderlie
Lawrence CVB	Judy Billings
Miami Co. Hist. Soc.	John Nichols
Lawrence CVB	Debbie White
Chair FFNHA Board	Deanell Tacha
Vice Chair FFNHA Board	John Dillingham
FFNHA Board	Karen McCarthy