

Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008  
Kansas City Central Library Annex  
Kansas City, Missouri

The meeting was called to order by Judge Deanell Tacha. Present were Tacha, Dillingham, Gibson, Balderson, Dunfield, Jones, Northern, Clark and Billings. Absent were Arter, Maag, McCarthy, Wagnon, Rolfs, Breidenthal, McCoy. Guest and potential board member, Bill Tempel, attended.

Tacha introduced Crosby Kemper III, Director of the KC Library who she had met with prior to the official meeting. His philosophy of programs at the library and those proposed for FFNHA are very synergistic and the hope is to partner closely in the future. Mr. Kemper agreed to become a member of the Board and was heartily welcomed.

The new commemorative coins were distributed to those in attendance.

On a motion by Dillingham and a second by Jones, minutes of the January meeting were approved. The February meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

John Dillingham spoke of Congressman Skelton's letter of support to MO Governor Blunt. He suggested that we also bring Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, in his role as co-chair of the Missouri Tourism Commission, up to date which he agreed to do. Tacha, Billings, Dillingham and McCarthy are scheduled to meet with Governor Blunt on April 2.

A financial report was presented with a list of donors. Total current assets are \$170,071.68 with an account receivable of \$75,000 committed from the Ks. Dept. of Commerce grant.

In review of the fundraising progress, Billings reported success in the amount of \$2,500 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation grant. She and Clark have met with Sam Bennett, Assistant Vice President and William T. Kemper Foundation Program Manager. A request for \$50,000 will officially be made to the foundation in the next few weeks. The Foundation committee will meet in mid-April. Billings and Gibson have met to discuss two foundations in Paola and registration with DonorEdge at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation is in progress. All were encouraged to be more active in fundraising with a goal of meeting the needs set forth in the proposed budget for 2008 including the development of a more effective website.

The public process of the Management Plan with the contractors began with a meeting of 100+ partners in Harrisonville on February 14. Billings reported a successful beginning for the next 12 months of work.

Billings reported on her trip to Washington DC the prior week for the Alliance of National Heritage Areas ANHA meeting. A white paper approved by the group was distributed outlining the strategy for all 37 currently designated areas to work with elected officials to raise the pool of funding in the FY09 federal budget to \$37m. This would allow each of the areas to equitably obtain the authorized \$1m. Congressman Skelton has written a letter to his colleague and friend, Chairman Dicks of the NPS Appropriations Committee, supporting an increase in the heritage area program line item of the FY09 budget.

In the meantime, enabling legislation for FFNHA authorized \$10m over 15 years. With that in mind (and not to wait to find out whether the pool is increased to accommodate all areas), Billings has submitted appropriations requests to each of the MO/KS Congressional offices for \$1m in FY09. She met with staff of each of the offices reporting excellent support from each office. As everyone knows, it's a slow process with no guarantees so all were urged to contact any Congressional office in support of this request.

Tacha reiterated the agreement by this board to contract with newly established Destination Management, Inc. (DMI) in Lawrence to manage the business of FFNHA. A draft contract will be presented for consideration at the next meeting. Charles Jones, a Douglas County Commissioner, reminded everyone that the contract between the City of Lawrence and DMI to manage the Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau is currently underwriting Billings' compensation for managing FFNHA work and that this organization will eventually need to be self sufficient. Tacha also reminded the board that the Douglas County Commission agreed to co-sign for the Management Plan contract of \$300,000.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 3:00pm in Lawrence at the Eldridge Extended. We will meet with our professional contractors and the Steering Committee of the Partnership Team to further the management planning process.

Future scheduled meetings are May 6, June 2 at 3:00pm at a location to be announced. A suggested location for May is the Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway, KS.

Meeting adjourned.