Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, September 27, 2011
Lone Jack Baptist Church
Lone Jack, MO

The meeting was called to order by John Dillingham, Chair. Present were Dillingham, Cohen, Clark, Craig, Dunfield, English, Ford, Jones, Northern, Ramsey, Stroup, Tempel, and Wood and Judy Billings, Julie McPike, and Sonia Smith. Absent were Arter, Banwart, Benton, Breidenthal, Gibson, Glasscock, Kemper, Maag, McCoy, Tacha, and Wagnon. Guests present were Alinda Miller, Lone Jack, Missouri, and Luther Smith, Kansas City, Kansas.

Dillingham welcomed and thanked Alinda Miller, Lone Jack Historical Society President, for hosting the meeting. The Board introduced themselves. Miller welcomed the Board to Lone Jack and explained the history and operations of the site. She and McPike discussed the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) and the ABPP grant awarded to FFNHA in the amount of $55,000 to develop a preservation plan for the Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield. McPike will administer the grant and work with the volunteers at the site.

Wood moved to approve the June 2011 minutes. Stroup seconded the motion, which passed.

Craig reported on the August 11th Partner's meeting, noting the mini-training workshops, maps, and the scholarship award to Deb Barker to attend the American Association of State and Local History annual meeting and conference. Ramsey and McPike discussed the microsites for partners on the website. Billings noted the continued high attendance at the partner meetings.

Billings discussed the financial report. Cohen moved to approve the financial report. Wood seconded the motion, which passed.

Stroup and Wood led discussion of the case statement. Stroup noted that the purpose of the case statement is a tool for the Board and partners to raise funds and supporters of Freedom's Frontier. Wood thanked Billings and Dunfield for their work on the case statement. Stroup moved to approve the case statement. Wood seconded the motion, which passed.

McPike reported updates on website, noting that a soft launch would occur by the end of the week. Billings reported that a news release has been prepared for partners to take to their local media of recent FFNHA accomplishments. Partners are encouraged to add their local successes and hand deliver the release along with a copy of the new map.

Billings reported on program legislation and the National Heritage Area caucus. She noted that meetings have occurred with FFNHA legislators' staff and reminded Board members to keep FFNHA in the conversation with legislators. Billings also discussed the NPS 2011 Call to Action and distributed the FFNHA response to the Call to Action illustrating how FFNHA fits within the goals of NPS. Ramsey asked about benchmarking increased visitation numbers and noted that attendance at the Bushwhacker Museum increased 53% over the same months from last year.

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Post Office Box 526
Lawrence, KS 66044
Ph 785-856-5300
Fx 785-856-5303

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Jones and Cohen discussed ideas for an award to honor Judge Tacha as the founding chair of Freedom's Frontier. The award would be a cash award given to a high school student, recognizing his/her outstanding historical, literary, or artistic work related to a Freedom's Frontier theme. Jones and Cohen asked that input on a name for the award to be given to them. Potential names offered included "Tacha Freedom Award," "Freedom's Future Award," or name that ties to a phrase from Tacha's speeches about Freedom's Frontier such as "Tacha Good Ancestor Award" . Craig suggested that the deadline for submission for the award coincide with History Day. Jones and Cohen also suggested that the board create an endowment for the award. As part of this program, they strongly recommended that presentation of the award be at an annual banquet which could also be a fundraising event for FFNHA. Members of the board agreed that announcement of the newly created award should occur at the Border War Conference in November.

Dillingham reported that the Nominating Committee will meet in November and asked for ideas for nominations to the Board. Six trustees' terms will expire in 2011, with two of those members elected from the Partnership Team. Stroup asked if there were any vacancies. Craig reported there are four vacancies on the board. Cohen suggested that ex-officio trustees be invited to attend or send representatives.

Clark reported that the review of the management agreement with DMI will be referred to the Executive Committee. They will have a report at the next Board Meeting.

Dillingham discussed sustainability. The board discussed ideas for developing a foundation for Freedom's Frontier. Billings explained the sunset of the coordinating entity and Congressional mandated evaluation. Dillingham asked for volunteers for a committee on sustainability. Craig suggested that the Development Committee could undertake this task.

Billings reminded attendees of the Border War Conference on November 10-12 at the Kansas City Public Library. Jones suggested that Freedom's Frontier representatives have name tags or lapel pins to identify their involvement with Freedom's Frontier.

Billings reported that the next meeting will be held on December 6 at the Kansas Statehouse.

The meeting was adjourned for a tour of the Lone Jack Museum.

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