Freedom’s Frontier staff, a few Board members, and Partners met at the Johnson County Library’s Central Resource Library, in Overland Park, Kansas, on Thursday, January 12, for the first Partner Meeting of 2017.

Places to see in Johnson County include (all of which can be found under Places to See on our webpage – www.freedomsfrontier.org):
- Deaf Cultural Center, William J. Marra Museum
- Gardner Historical Museum
- Johnson County Museum (not yet open in its new location, but soon!)
- Lanesfield Historic Site: One-Room School
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site
- Merriam Historic Plaza
- Monticello Historical Station
- Olathe Historical Society
- Olathe Memorial Cemetery
- Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
- Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site
- Shawnee Town 1929 Museum
- Union Cemetery
- Virginia School

Please visit our Partner community and find out about shared stories in Johnson County, KS!
**Lesson Plans.** Freedom’s Frontier Education and Interpretation Manager **Liz Hobson** and Olathe School District Social Studies Coordinator **Maureen Donegan** have been developing a series of *Teaching with Freedom’s Frontier Historic Places* lesson plans. They began this project to create lesson plans for the National Park Service’s [Teaching with Historic Places](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org) website. The resources they created were too valuable to hold onto while waiting – up to two years – for the NPS to get the lesson plans posted, so they posted them [here](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org) as well (Educate tab, www.freedomsfrontier.org).

The process used in developing lesson plans utilizes primary and secondary sources specific to chosen places to promote historical thinking and literacy skills. Maureen found that as she and Liz developed this project, she gained a lot from visiting FFNHA Partner sites, sitting down with Partners, and hearing their stories. Maureen and Liz are available to assist with developing lesson plans and educational programs for your site.

Liz also mentioned:

- Professional Development [scholarship guidelines](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org) have been updated.
- The kickoff for the Kansas City Kansas Public Library oral history project is February 4. The project will record memories of growing up in Quindaro so they won’t be lost. Contact Liz if you’d like to help with interviews or transcribing, or want to do a project in your area.
- Tacha Award deadline is May 7.
- She is working on an Americorps grant, for both states, for 2018. Some of the projects volunteers may assist sites with include national registry applications, collections management, school programs, StEPs, and other things you identify in the survey. Contact her to give feedback, or a copy of the survey.
Race KC Project. Johnson County Librarian Angel Tucker opened the Race KC Project discussion with a question:

“Does race matter?”

Teens who participate in the Race KC Project – funded in part by an FFNHA Interpretive Grant – have an opportunity to think about this question. The project presents information about the way that the Kansas City metro developed and why neighborhoods on both sides of the state line are, and look the way they do.

In partnership with local educators and other partners, Johnson County Library and the Race Project KC program facilitates intentional dialogue about the structural forms of racism in America and Kansas City. Students get to share their own unique stories, break down barriers between diverse groups of students, and use their diversity to understand collective strengths. The project brings racially diverse teens from metro high schools together for a bus tour of their city, history lessons, and discussions of Some of My Best Friends Are Black, by Tanner Colby. (There’s also a link here to the podcast, Our National Conversation About Conversations About Race.)

The author has participated in this program, and will be in the area for another session in April, at which time he'll also be working with the Lawrence Public Library to start a similar project in their community.

The library held an Educator Summit to reach out to metro teachers and discuss the issues and themes that the Race KC Project touches on. This excerpt from Colby’s book was pre-tour reading for students who took the bus tour.

You can also read about Deliberate Dialog, a Kansas State University program that partners with this project.
Managing Director’s Report. Managing Director Julie McPike said that although FFNHA staff always try to be frugal with our funds, in times of budget uncertainty, it’s even more important to work smartly to make the most of our funding. To that end, and because Congress has only funded the government through April, the board approved an Interim Budget, effective January-April 2017.

Other items on Julie’s update list:
• Let’s Move Outside, a Department of the Interior initiative for kids, families, and older adults playing, exercising and learning outdoors. To promote your outdoor activity to a larger audience, contact Julie to get it on the Let’s Move Outside website.
• The nation’s heritage areas work together for a collective voice through the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA). Jim and Julie will be in Washington, DC February 13-16, to talk to all eleven KS and MO members of Congress. Julie will provide language you can use if you’d like to reach out to your representation.
• Program legislation would standardize the 49 heritage areas. All MO reps, and Lynn Jenkins in KS, signed onto the program bill last year. No companion bill in Senate. In 2-6 weeks they will try to introduce the bills for this session of Congress.

Executive Director’s Report. Executive Director Jim Ogle reported that 2016 was our best year in terms of Interpretive Grants. He said, “No idea should be treated cautiously.” We may know about other grants, such as the $25,000 grant secured for the Topeka trails project.

He encouraged Partners to continue to connect with us when we have meetings, even if you can’t come to a meeting. Jim is trying new technology, and used Mevo (a camera for livestreaming) to put the meeting live on Facebook. Share your feedback with Jim, or on our Facebook page.

You may have noticed in our Facebook pictures that we also had sign language interpreters at this meeting, and our annual meeting. Let Jim know if there are other accommodations that would make participating in our meetings easier for you.
Board of Trustees Report. Alexis Woodall, who is a Partner from Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site and an FFNHA Board of Trustees member, provided a review of the December 2016 board meeting. At that meeting:

Board members Bob Ford, Duane Benton, Don Scott and Grant Glenn were elected to renewed terms on the board.

The board approved an Interim Budget, effective January-April 2017. An interim budget was deemed necessary since Congress did not pass appropriations bills funding the government for the full year, but instead passed a continuing resolution funding the government through April 28, 2017.

Signage Coordinator Doug Pickert provided a signage update (Doug’s slides from the January Partner meeting are with this meeting recap.)

Board member and Marketing Committee Chair Larry Pfautsch discussed the marketing efforts he is leading.

FFNHA Executive Director Jim Ogle and Managing Director Julie McPike talked about their upcoming trip to Washington, DC, for the annual Alliance of National Heritage Areas February meeting, and a chance to talk to the Missouri and Kansas Congressmen and Senators, and their staff about Freedom’s Frontier, and program legislation.
Signage Report. Signage Coordinator Doug Pickert provided an update to the continuing signage progress.

The signage master plan was completed about two years ago. The plan identified 50 highway entry sites for the heritage area to mark with signage – 25 high traffic spots on each side of the state line. There are also two pilot locations for beginning to implement heritage area signage: Bates County/Bulter, MO, and Olathe, KS.

Doug has been working with both Kansas and Missouri departments of transportation in an effort to get the states to include our logo on highway signs. As they are not willing to allow this, Freedom’s Frontier is going to proceed with signage, even without the logo.

In Missouri, Doug is working on agreements to outline cost to FFNHA and maintenance to get signs installed. Things are moving forward, and there should be signs going up in the spring. On the Kansas side, KDOT has no established policies for implementation or cost of signs.

Directional signs is another phase of the plan. These signs may supplement existing signs or provide new signs where none exist. Signs in Bates County, City of Butler, at the Island Mound State Park will be up soon. Dough is still negotiating on the signs that will be within the city limits on state rights of way. Signs on private property may be an option if the issue can’t be resolved.

Mahaffie is a different situation. Additional sites have been added: Memorial Cemetery, Deaf Cultural, Historical Society. Lots of different groups are all wanting signage, so the city is working out how they will handle requests.
Marketing Report. Communications Manager Sonia Smith spoke briefly about the process of updating Partner microsites at [www.freedomsfrontier.org](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org) (Places to See.) She is working with Aaron Barnhart to update the existing microsites, add new Partner microsites, and make them more robust. The content will also be used as we work on collaborations with a travel app for the heritage area.

Board of Trustees member and Director of the Franklin County Historical Society is working with Sonia to build a tourism kiosk prototype. More about this when the first one is built and ready to place at its designated location, the Museum at Prairiefire.

Partnership Report. Partnership Coordinator Adam Newhard said, “I am your voice in the organization. If you don't talk to me, I don't know what you need.”

In our busy office, Adam will be your liaison. Call him at (785) 856-3634 or email anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org.

Youth Programs Report. Youth Program Assistant Lexi Ray can assist you with any questions about FFNHA day camps, and has a survey about participating in the summer 2017 camps. If you want to provide feedback, but didn't get a survey, email Lexi at Lray@freedomsfrontier.org.
**Emergency Preparedness!** For the first session of our workshop series on Emergency Preparedness, we were happy to have Todd Maxton, from Olathe Fire Department and Terry Kegin, Assistant Director, Operations Johnson County Emergency Management on the program to talk about how to prepare for an emergency at your site. It’s not necessarily something we like to think about, but something we should.

Todd said that he had talked to Tim Talbot at Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm to understand the needs of an FFNHA Partner in learning how to get ready to handle a disaster. He said that being prepared is essential, as city, county and state resources will be stretched thin during a disaster, and you may need to handle some things on site.

> “The only thing tougher that planning for a disaster is explaining why you didn’t.” Bob Fields Santa Clara, CA EMA

In the Midwest, these are some of the situations that might arise: tornados, earthquakes (New Madrid fault), accidental release of toxic materials, disease, severe weather and flooding. Do you have a plan to deal with these and other situations your site may be at risk for experiencing? The basics include making sure that you have drinking water available: at least a gallon per day per person. If you’re sheltering at home, make sure you also provide water for pets.

- Stock up on supplies. Be prepared for the possibility utilities may be shut off.
- Limit outdoor activities in snow/ice/extreme weather
- Have a written emergency operations plan, and know what’s in it.
- Evaluate hazards and risks.
- Know who to contact in the event of an emergency. Keep the list where you can access it when you need it. Include the emergency management folks in your area on your list. Contact them in advance of a disaster. They can even help you make your plans.
- Call 911 first if you need it.

(Continued on next slide.)
What to do if there’s an active shooter.
Todd and Terry also talked about what to do if the emergency is an active shooter, because 30% of workplace active shooter incidents are at government agencies. The important decision you need to make in this type of situation is whether to run, hide or fight. Sometimes bad people do bad things. Motivations are different. Warning signs vary. Devastating effects are the same. Be prepared for the worst. Survival can depend on whether or not you have a plan.

Run if you can get away from the situation.
- If you can get out, do, and encourage others to leave with you.
- Remember what is important: you are! Leave belongings behind.
- Prevent others from entering.
- Getting to safety is number one priority. Call 911 next.

Find a place to hide.
- Turn out lights and lock doors.
- Silence your phone.
- Conceal yourself behind large items.
- Stay quiet and calm.

As a last resort, fight with aggression.
- Improvise weapons.
- Commit to your actions.

Be aware of your environment. First responders are there to stop the shooter and will deal with the injured later. Keep your hands up. Stay calm. Follow directions. Be aware. Be prepared. Do drills. Have a designated safe meeting place away from your building.

Resource Links
National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
National Trust for Historic Preservation – Disaster Preparedness
NIMS (National Incident Management System) – FEMA

Ask Liz Hobson for the handouts from this session.
What can you add to this resource list?
Do you have an emergency management plan for your site you could share at March meeting?

Contact Liz Hobson or Adam Newhard if you have ideas for the next session on this topic.
Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

SIGNAGE UPDATE
JANUARY 12, 2017
SIGNAGE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

1. FEDERAL & STATE HIGHWAY SIGNAGE
   • MODOT UPDATE
   • KDOT UPDATE

2. DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE – PILOT PROJECTS
   • BATES COUNTY & MAHAFFIE

3. PARTNER SITES (ON-SITE)
BOUNDARY SIGNAGE

• 25 PRIORITY LOCATIONS IN KS AND MO
• NO INCLUSION OF FFNHA LOGO
  • REVISED RULING (via MODOT) – FHWA STATES THAT LOGOS ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE
• BOUNDARY SIGNAGE PROCESS HAS BEEN INITIATED WITH BOTH STATES
MODOT BOUNDARY SIGNAGE CONCEPTS
MISSOURI BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – NORTH SECTION
BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – MODOT UPDATE

• 25 PRIORITY LOCATIONS
  • LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY 3rd-PARTY SIGNAGE ADMINISTRATOR. NO ISSUES/PROBLEMS NOTED.

• AGREEMENTS ARE BEING PREPARED
  • INITIAL FEES and
  • ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEES

• INSTALLATION SCHEDULE – SPRING 2017
KANSAS BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – SOUTH SECTION
BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – **KDOT UPDATE**

- **25 PRIORITY LOCATIONS**
  - SEEKING INPUT AND GUIDANCE FROM KDOT CONTACTS.
  - KDOT DOES NOT HAVE AN ESTABLISHED POLICY REGARDING APPROVAL OR COSTS.
FREEDOM’S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE FOR BATES COUNTY, MISSOURI
August 19, 2016

LOCATION 1
LOCATION 2
BATES COUNTY

• APPROVALS RECEIVED FROM:
  • CITY OF BUTLER
  • BATES COUNTY
  • ISLAND MOUND SITE (MO STATE PARKS)
• SIGNS - DELIVERED MID-NOVEMBER (TO CITY OF BUTLER)
• INSTALLATION TIMELINE – VARIES BY LOCATION
  • CITY R.O.W. AND ISLAND MOUND SIGNS FIRST.
  • MODOT HIGHWAY R.O.W. AND/OR PRIVATE SITES
  • WORKING WITH BUTLER CITY ADMINISTRATOR
DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE – PILOT PROJECTS

MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP AND FARM
- ADDITIONAL PARTNER SITES ADDED
- REVIEW/APPROVAL PROCESS UNDERWAY
  - FFNHA SERVING AS A COORDINATING RESOURCE DUE TO FIVE SIGNAGE PROGRAMS IN OLATHE:
    - FFNHA
    - NPS/NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS (AUTO AND PEDESTRIAN)
    - AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL
    - CITY DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- RECENT MEETINGS w/NPS, SANTA FE and OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATIONS
- CITY OF OLATHE CONDUCTING INTERNAL REVIEW
PARTNER SITE SIGNAGE (ON-SITE)

- **NEW ORDER OPPORTUNITY FOR 36”X16” and 27”X12” LAMINATE SIGNS**
  - $195 (36”) AND $125 (27”)
  - 8-10 WEEKS FOR FABRICATION AND DELIVERY

- **WINDOW APPLICATIONS (“CLINGS”)**
  - OPTIONS BEING DEVELOPED
  - MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON
**Save the Date**

**Wednesday, February 1** – Deadline for Interpretive Grant consultation. Interpretive Grant applications due **Wednesday, February 15**. Ask **Liz Hobson** your Interpretive Grant questions.

**Quindaro Oral History Project – Saturday, February 4**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, Main Branch, 625 Minnesota Ave. Call (913) 295-8250 for more information from the library, or ask Liz Hobson.

**Wednesday, February 8** – Board of Trustees Meeting, Great Overland Station, Topeka, KS. This meeting follows the Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) **Destination Statehouse** morning session and lunch.

**Wednesday-Thursday, February 22-23** – Missouri Travel Council (MTC) Pancake Breakfast/Capitol Days for Tourism, Jefferson City, MO.

**Thursday, March 9** – Partner Meeting, 1859 Jail, Independence MO.

**Contact Us**

Elizabeth Hobson [ehobson@freedomsfrontier.org](mailto:ehobson@freedomsfrontier.org)
Education & Interpretation Manager (785) 856-2333

Julie McPike [jmcpike@freedomsfrontier.org](mailto:jmcpike@freedomsfrontier.org)
Managing Director (785) 856-5283

Adam Newhard [anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org](mailto:anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org)
Partnership Coordinator (785) 856-3634

Jim Ogle [jogle@freedomsfrontier.org](mailto:jogle@freedomsfrontier.org)
Executive Director (785) 409-9943

Doug Pickert [dpickert@freedomsfrontier.org](mailto:dpickert@freedomsfrontier.org)
Signage Coordinator (913) 583-1370

Sonia Smith [ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org](mailto:ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org)
Marketing & Communications Manager (785) 856-5304

---

**Partner Meeting**

Johnson County Library 01.12.2017