Thursday, March 9, was the second Freedom’s Frontier Partnership Meeting of 2017, and also the second of three sessions on Emergency Management. We met at the Historic Truman Courthouse in Independence, Missouri.

Places to see in Independence, MO (all of which can be found under Places to See on our webpage – http://www.freedomsfrontier.org):

Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
Bingham-Waggoner Estate
Vaile Victorian Mansion
Jackson County History Society
Harry S Truman National Historic Site Visitor Center & Home Tour
1859 Jail, Marshal’s Home and Museum
National Frontier Trails Museum

Please visit our Partner community and find out about shared stories in Independence, Missouri!

This meeting was livestreamed on Facebook, and you can watch it here! https://www.facebook.com/FreedomsFrontier/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE.

Because this meeting is available to watch, the reports in this recap are condensed, and may include additional information that enhances the livestream report.
Welcome and Introductions. Caitlin Eckard, Archivist/Operations Manager for the Jackson County Historical Society gave an overview of the Courthouse that is in the center of the Historic Square in Independence. The Truman Courthouse dates back to before Independence’s famous resident served as the Presiding Judge of Jackson County.

The original courthouse building was established in 1836, and has undergone several renovations. The final renovation, in 1933, designed by George Fredrick Wallace under the leadership of Presiding Judge Harry S. Truman, expanded the courthouse to accommodate Jackson County’s functioning departments and created a new office where the future president served as the county’s senior administrator.

Dave Aamodt, curator of the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, talked about his museum, and invited the partners to visit.

Adam Newhard, Partnership Coordinator (FFNHA) welcomed first time attendees to the meeting. Each was invited to provide an introduction, and presented with a Freedom’s Frontier challenge coin. *(Pay attention, there will be a quiz!)*

Joining us for the first time today were: Travis Boley, Association Manager, Oregon-California Trails Association; Ray Doswell, Vice President of Curatorial Services, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum; Kelly Peak, Special Projects Director of Development at Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush; and Thomas Gordon, Quindaro.
Greenbush Anywhere. Kelly Peak, one of our first-timers at the meeting, was also on the agenda. She came to talk about Greenbush Anywhere, Virtual and Onsite Enrichment (This is important information. You will be quizzed.)

The Southeast Education Service Center works with Kansas schools – some may be small districts, many are in rural areas – and provides a hands-on approach to student experiences in the classroom that involve distance learning and livestreaming of science education into classrooms.

Kelly was at the meeting to discuss a new partnership with FFNHA that will introduce programs that Greenbush, FFNHA, and our sites develop to meet state history curriculum standards and take our FFNHA themes into classrooms, well, anywhere.

The Greenbush folks are looking for a few sites that would like to be part of a pilot program to create lesson plans. They would assist with the technology piece, and Liz Hobson, our Education and Interpretation Manager, would be available to assist as well. If you are interested in learning how your site could be part of a history lesson in a classroom far away from your location, please contact Liz at (785) 856-2333, or ehobson@freedomsfrontier.org.

While Kelly Peak was talking to us at the courthouse, Michael McCambridge, the Director of the Science Education Center, was miles away, near Girard, Kansas, giving us a sample of what history distance learning might look like.

Our Executive Director, Jim Ogle, added that though our Bus On Us! program has proven successful in getting children to field trips, many of the children served by Greenbush live so far from our sites that a fieldtrip is not feasible. Working with this organization will help build our programs respect from school districts that participate in distance learning, and will guide us in best practices. The programs that come from this pilot project will be learning opportunities for all.
**Professional Development Report.** Caitlin Eckard, our meeting host, was the recipient of an FFNHA Professional Development Scholarship Grant that she used to attend the American Alliance of Museums Conference in Washington, D.C. last year. She was there to learn about collections management, which was a theme of the conference.

Caitlin had a great experience at the conference, and was particularly happy to be able to network with other museum professionals who understood, and were going through, some of the same everyday issues she experiences as a member of a small staff. She attended some good sessions, including one on 75 ideas for your museum. (She will share this information with Sonia Smith, so email ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org, if you are interested in having this sent to you.)

Caitlin also enjoyed visiting the museums in Washington, and being able to gather ideas, and see how other museums display items and artifacts. She said one of the highlights was a party for the conference-goers at one of the museums where she was enjoying a cool beverage while standing near a t-rex – something you don’t get to do just every day. (Again, pay attention: this is important later!)

This is a picture that Sonia lifted from the Interwebs (Jeff Fox: The Examiner http://www.examiner.net/news/20170201/historical-society-hopes-renovations-will-draw-more-visitors-to-1859-jail) of Caitlin at the 1859 Jail and Marshal’s Home, because she didn’t get to go on the tour Caitlin gave after the partner meeting. Now you get to see both Caitlin and the Marshal’s Home.
Signage Report. One of the most fun things that FFNHA Signage Coordinator Doug Pickert got to report is that the Freedom’s Frontier window clings are here!

Clings come in two sizes and can be ordered by contacting either Doug or Managing Director Julie McPike.

Doug continues to try and work through the issues of getting signs in the ground in a two-state, 41-county, numerous municipality region, while also working with federal agencies. Let that sink in, as you congratulate him on getting Missouri Department of Transportation to agree to put the National Park Service Arrowhead on the Freedom’s Frontier signs that will be going up along highways. Still no FFNHA logo on any highway signs in either state, but Doug is persistent, and will keep giving us updates. (This paragraph has quiz information.)

Doug’s slides provide a lot more information, and pictures, too, so a few are included here.

*Doug showing off the larger of the two window clings.*
MODOT BOUNDARY SIGNAGE CONCEPTS

- Entering Clay County
- Entering Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area
- Entering Lafayette County
- Entering Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Additional notes:
- National Park Service Arrowhead to be added to final version
FEDERAL AND STATE HIGHWAY SIGNAGE

BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – MODOT UPDATE

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

• AGREEMENTS ARE READY, PENDING REVISION TO INCLUDE THE NPS LOGO.
  • INITIAL FEES and ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEES

• INSTALLATION SCHEDULE – 6-8 WEEKS AFTER DELIVERY OF SIGNED AGREEMENTS AND PAYMENT. ESTIMATED MAY-JUNE.
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.
  • KDOT IS PUTTING TOGETHER COST ESTIMATES, WHICH COULD ARRIVE AT ANY TIME.
  • INITIAL RESPONSE TO USE OF NPS LOGO WAS NEGATIVE. FFNHA IS STILL PURSUING THE REQUEST.
FREEDOM'S FRONTIER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE FOR BATES COUNTY, MISSOURI
August 19, 2016

LOCATION 1
LOCATION 2

“INBOUND” SIGNS
DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE – PILOT PROJECTS

BATES COUNTY

• APPROVALS RECEIVED FROM:
  • CITY OF BUTLER, BATES COUNTY, AND 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.
  • MO STATE PARKS HAS PICKED UP THEIR SIGN.
  • MODOT HIGHWAY R.O.W. AND/OR PRIVATE SITES
  • LETTER SENT BY CITY OF BUTLER TO MODOT, REQUESTING SIGNAGE WITHIN CITY LIMITS.
MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP AND FARM
• ADDITIONAL PARTNER SITES REMOVED (PER CITY REQUEST)
• REVIEW/APPROVAL PROCESS UNDERWAY
  • CITY OF OLATHE CONDUCTING INTERNAL REVIEW
  • INITIAL RESPONSE FROM OLATHE WAS THE SIGNAGE WOULD COMPETE WITH THEIR SIGNAGE SYSTEM.
  • FFNHA RECENTLY SUBMITTED SCALED-BACK PLAN w/ LOWER SIGN HEIGHTS TO ADDRESS CITY CONCERNS; AWAITING CITY REVIEW AND RESPONSE.
Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
PARTNER SITE
PARTNER SITE SIGNAGE (ON-SITE)

NEW SIGNAGE
DELIVERED
• OLD PRAIRIE TOWN AT WARD-MEADE (TOPEKA)
• OLATHE MEMORIAL CEMETERY
• ORCUTT LIVING HISTORY BACKYARD MUSEUM
• CLAY COUNTY HISTORIC SITES

ORDERED (DELIVERY EXPECTED IN EARLY APRIL)
• UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY, LEAVENWORTH
• VISIT MANHATTAN
• MARLA QUILTS, INC. AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILT MUSEUM
PARTNER SITE SIGNAGE (ON-SITE)

WINDOW CLINGS – NOW AVAILABLE!
• 9”X4” ($10) or 18”X8” ($15); OTHER SIZES MAY BE ORDERED.
  • CLEAR OR WHITE BACKGROUND
**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, was with the FFNHA staff in Topeka at Destination Statehouse, visiting with legislators, and also attended the board meeting at the Great Overland Station.

Alexis mentioned that since there is a new governor in Missouri, that FFNHA was awaiting his response to an invitation to become the next honorary co-chair (along with Kansas Governor Sam Brownback) of the heritage area. Executive Director Jim Ogle announced that Governor Eric Greitens has indeed accepted that invitation. (Quiz information.)

At the board meeting, board members got to see the new information folders that the FFNHA staff has designed, the new travel information kiosks that are in development, and the annual reports. All of which were available at this meeting for attendees, and also can be sent to anyone who would like to see them. Request from Communications and Marketing Manager Sonia Smith at ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org.

Alexis said that the 2017 FFNHA Workplan is focused on efficiencies while using limited resources.
Executive Director’s Report. Executive Director Jim Ogle reported that FFNHA staff traveled with the Missouri and Kansas state tourism entities to travel to Jefferson City and Topeka to give all state legislators packets of FFNHA information (the Freedom’s Struggle book, the new information folder, a challenge coin and lapel pin, information about the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, and an annual report.)

In Topeka, some of the Lecompton Reenactors accompanied us to talk about the important role that all of you and Freedom’s Frontier play in state tourism. We were able to move our Board of Trustees meeting to the Great Overland Station in Topeka to facilitate attending both the Travel Industry Association of Kansas Destination Statehouse day, and have our board meeting.

In Missouri, the legislators have a pancake breakfast with the Missouri Tourism Council, and Managing Director Julie McPike found out at that event that she is really good at catching flipped pancakes on a plate.

Jim continues to work with the FFNHA team and work on bringing new technologies into the meeting that will make sure that we are connecting with many people – not just the ones that can travel to one of our meetings.

If you need accommodations to attend a meeting, please contact a member of the FFNHA staff at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting so we can try to assist you in whatever way will make attending a partnership meeting work for you!

Jim also reported that we are continuing to look at how things that Freedom’s Frontier and its partners do impact lives, and working to tell those stories through annual reports and other promotions. This may mean changes to the annual meeting schedule, and when we publish the annual report.
Education & Interpretation Manager’s Report. It is nearly time for camps again, and both Education and Interpretation Manager Liz Hobson and Youth Camp Coordinator Lexi Ray are planning ahead.

There will be 7 weeks of camps, with a potential new addition this summer of camps in Osawatomie. If you are interested in having your site as part of a camp visit, contact Liz at (785) 856-2333 or ehobson@freedomsfrontier.org.

Liz has been working on the project to elevate the status of the Quindaro Townsite to a National Historic Landmark. She, Managing Director Julie McPike and Executive Director Jim Ogle met with the commissioners of the Unified Government (UG) of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas to talk about the project. The UG’s commissioners voted unanimously to apply for a $20,000 Kansas State Historical Society Historic Preservation Fund Grant, to be used to hire a consultant to assist with the process. If awarded, Freedom’s Frontier will be the grant administrator. Other aspects of the project include gathering essays for a symposium in 2018, and recording oral histories of stories about Quindaro, in partnership with the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

Liz also reported on the Kansas City History Trivia Nights that she is planning with the Wornall Majors House Museums, and the Kansas City Museum. The first event will be held at the Alexander Majors Barn, on Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. $20 tickets include food, two drink tickets for beer or wine, and a ticket for door prizes. Gather your team of four and enter today! Tickets may be purchased at https://squareup.com/store/wornallmajors/item/trivia-night-kansas-city-history.

As Liz announced the trivia nights information, she also announced that there would be a quiz about things that happened during this partner meeting. Questions are near the end of this report.
Managing Director’s Report. Managing Director Julie McPike gave an update on the trip she and Executive Director, Jim Ogle made to Washington, D.C., last month for the annual meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, which included visits to all of the Kansas and Missouri Congressional delegation to talk to them about FFNHA, and the program legislation that would bring all 49 NHAs in the nation under the same piece of legislation.

And, much more fun than that, they also got to visit the new National Museum of African American History and Culture at a time before the public was in the building, so the ANHA group had it all to themselves. You can see Julie's pictures of all things she saw that pertained to our themes on our Facebook page.

Julie’s update included information about federal funding. At this point, as the new administration and Congress work on budgeting, our funds are about 7/12s of what we received last year. We may know in April if there will be a new budget, if there will be a new continuing resolution, or if neither of those things happen, then there may be a government shut-down. Regardless, we are continuing to work efficiently, and effectively with the budget we have, and will provide further updates as they come along.

Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, Kansas District 2, has signed on as a sponsor of HR 1002 (https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1002/text), the National Heritage Act of 2017 (and since the partner meeting, so has Representative Roger Marshall, Kansas District 1). In past years, several of the Missouri delegates have cosponsored this legislation. If you are so inclined to contact your delegates and ask them to cosponsor the bill, please contact Julie at (785) 856-5283, or jmcpike@freedomsfrontier.org, and she can provide you with additional information.

The goal is to get all Congresspersons and Senators to sign onto a Dear Colleague Letter for robust funding for heritage areas for 2017 and 2018.
Communications and Marketing Manager’s Report. Lawrence is getting ready to host a huge event as the U.S. Track and Field Junior Olympics come to town July 23-30, 2017. FFNHA has the DMO tent reserved 2-6 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, and will have a 10 X 10 tent dedicated to information about the heritage area and partners. There is an opportunity to get our maps into the hands of up to 8,000 families staying in hotels in Lawrence, KC, Topeka, Olathe, Overland Park, Lenexa, Bonner Springs and other local communities. USATF officials say families often tack on days to their stay for vacation. Moms are trip planners; interests include dining, history, sightseeing, sports. Do you have sports displays, especially pertinent to FFNHA themes/track and field that could go up in July? Let Sonia know at ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org if you have special exhibits that she can promote, or ideas for that week, and she will continue to update you on what we do to help get some of those visitors to go to our partner sites.

ExPlore Lawrence has a tool kit at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B8aDjPWqgPoeX3hId2ZGMmdWN2M. Sonia will also be sending out a 5-6 question survey about your site's signature event(s)/festivals that will give us information about how we can assist with your event, allow us to schedule better and get events on the calendar.

She distributed some copies of the information folder that the FFNHA team has been developing for use by staff and board members. Current cards have information about: partnership, donations, Bus On Us!, Interpretive Grants, Youth Camp, Freedom Corps. These folders will be expanded to have customized information that can be used for development and recruiting partners, board members, donors, and information for elected officials. The Goal is to increase numbers of cards to include additional programming and individual partner sites.

Sonia invited partners to take a look at the travel information kiosk prototype that is in development, built by Franklin County Historical Society's Deb Barker, who is also an FFNHA Board member. Managing Director Julie McPike’s father is building five additional kiosks.

Information folder and 2016 annual report are available by contacting Sonia. You can also read the annual report online at http://www.freedomsfrontier.org/uploads/resources/2016_annual_report_pages.pdf.
**Crisis Communications!** For the Second session of our workshop series on Emergency Preparedness, *Marsha Bennett*, who retired after more than 25 years as the Community Relations Coordinator at Johnson County Library. Marsha was the PIO (public information officer) and communications coordinator, as well as the liaison between the library and its nonprofit Friends of the Library group. Marsha’s uncle, a photographer who lived in Independence, had a close relationship with Truman, and many of the photos he took are now at the Truman Library. Marsha talked about Crisis Communications, and getting information out to your constituencies. Here are her 12 tips:

1. What just happened? Document everything as it is happening. What time, who was there, etc. It may be important later for many reasons. Designate someone to do only this.
2. Have emergency responders been notified? As soon as you get to safety, make sure first responders have been called, and any others who need to know (board, staff, volunteers, etc.)
3. What do we need to record, and why? Having a record of what happened is necessary for police and fire reports, insurance, media, board, your archives, etc.
4. Where is our crisis communications plan? You should have a copy that is off-site (at home, in your car, easily accessible) as well as making sure staff/volunteers know where to find it.
5. Who is our spokesperson? Everyone on your staff and volunteers should know this. Send reporters to talk to the spokesperson so the message about the crisis is consistent, and from one person.
6. Who needs to be informed? Media, your board, your staff and volunteers, the public, etc.
7. What are the key messages? Have 2-3 messages that are the most important and stick to them. Bridge to the key messages when someone asks a question.
8. When, where and how do we release the information? What is the best backdrop for reporters with cameras? Is this event worthy of a news conference?
9. How do we deal with rude, persistent or nosy reporters? With respect for the job they are doing, make sure they know your key messages, and you respond quickly with good information.
10. What about updates, impacts, follow ups? What needs to happen next? Who needs to know? Will you update the media? Let your constituents know when to expect the next update.
11. How do we learn from our mistakes? Plan to have a debriefing with your team after the event.

Lexi Ray, FFNHA Youth Camp Coordinator, listens while Marsha Bennett discusses crisis communications. Sign language interpreters share her presentation. Contact Communications and Marketing Manager Sonia Smith for a copy of the handout with the 12 tips, or more information.
Quick Sheets! Sarah-Bader King, Director of Programming and Events for the Wornall Majors House Museums, continued our Emergency Preparedness series with a presentation on having your key information available in the event of an emergency.

You should evaluate your crisis communications plan to make sure that it fits your institution. Sarah said that using a plan from another organization as a starting point is good, as long as you fine tune the plan to be relevant to your museum or site. Don't just copy and paste and think you're done.

Have quick sheets for staff and volunteers that list items such as:

- **Important phone numbers** – the director, and other key staff at home/cell numbers, and others who need to be called.
- **First responder phone numbers** – both 911 and the nonemergency numbers for police/fire.
- **Evacuation plans** – Where are all the exits? Who is responsible for doing a head count? Where will you meet outside the building?
- Where are fire extinguishers? Does staff know how to use them?
- What are the most important things to retrieve from the building once all the people are safe and you can go back in? Where are those things located?

Sarah stressed several times that the safety of the people at your site is always the most important part of a crisis. Having these quick sheet reference guides for staff and volunteers can help them to plan for a crisis situation. Go over the guides with them, and make sure everyone is familiar with them.

Everyone at your site should have access to the quick sheets and be familiar with them.
Visit Independence. Frank Frank Buhro, Tourism Sales and Services Representative, Independence, MO, gave the meeting attendees information about the city, and included a Flat Harry for everyone to color.

If you would like more information about Independence, MO, contact the tourism staff, and Find Your Independence, here: [http://visitindependence.com/](http://visitindependence.com/).
**Partner Meeting Quiz.** Five questions were asked about the partner meeting, and meeting attendees submitted their answers for a chance at a drawing.

The questions are below. Find the answers elsewhere in this report.

1). How many first-timers were introduced at the beginning of the meeting?
2). What is the name of the Greenbush distance learning program?
3). What did Caitlin have a drink with while on conference in Washington, D.C. (be specific)?
4). What is being added to the MODOT boundary signs in Freedom’s Frontier?
5). Who has joined the FFNHA Board as an honorary co-chair?

The first three people (who were not able to attend the meeting in person) to correctly answer the questions by sending an email to Communications and Marketing Manager Sonia Smith, at ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org, will receive a prize. Submit your answers with the email subject line Partner Meeting Quiz. Include your name, site, and a mailing address.

Also, be sure to contact Liz Hobson at chobson@freedomsfrontier.org if you would like to contribute trivia questions for the May 25 Kansas City History Trivia Night at the Alexander Majors Barn, or to the one to follow in September at the Kansas City Museum.

Be sure to register for the next Partner Meeting, Thursday, May 11, at the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society, 201 W Washington St, Tonganoxie, KS 66086. Make your reservations at www.freedomsfrontier.org

If you have questions about the meeting, contact Partnership Coordinator Adam Newhard, (785) 856-3634, or at anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org.
**Save the Date**

**Wednesday, April 12** – Board of Trustees Meeting, National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W Pacific Avenue, Independence, MO.

**Monday, May 1** – Deadline for Interpretive Grant consultation. Interpretive Grant applications due **Monday, May 15**. Ask [Liz Hobson](mailto:liz@freedomsfrontier.org) your Interpretive Grant questions.

**Thursday, May 11** – Partner Meeting, Tonganoxie Community Historical Society, Tonganoxie, KS. Make your reservations here: [http://www.freedomsfrontier.org/partners/](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org/partners/). If you have questions, contact Partnership Coordinator [Adam Newhard](mailto:adam@freedomsfrontier.org).

**Thursday, May 25** – Kansas City History Trivia Night, Alexander Majors Barn. Send Liz your trivia questions, or just register your team and come play.

Photographer **Jeff Hobson** took new photos of your FFNHA staff. You can also find this photo on our Contact page at [www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/Contact](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/Contact) and on our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/FreedomsFrontier/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel](https://www.facebook.com/FreedomsFrontier/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).

From left: Liz, Doug, Jim, Julie, Sonia and Adam.