



Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

**Thursday, March 10, 2011
Partnership Team Meeting
Topeka, Kansas**

The March 10, 2011, Freedom's Frontier Partnership Team Meeting was held at the Kansas National Guard Museum in Topeka, Kansas.



Meeting Agenda

Welcome

Updates

Civil War Sesquicentennial

AASLH StEPs

Brigadier General Ed Gerhardt, President of the Kansas National Guard Museum, welcomed attendees to the museum and highlighted some upcoming events.

Alexis Woodall, FFNHA Partnership Chair, led attendees in introductions. She reminded them of the Partner Pledge and feedback forms and that the video and management plan were for sale. FFNHA Commemorative Coins were presented to Bill Hawkins and Lindsay Madison for signing the Partner Pledge.

Outreach Events

Advisory Committee Meeting

Board of Trustees

National Trust for Historic Preservation Meeting

Workshops

FFNHA Projects

Future Workplans

Outreach Events: Woodall reported on her presentation to the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society and Judy Billings reported on the partnership with Symphony in the Flint Hills (SITFH). Chair of the Board of Trustees, Deanell Tacha and Billings have spoken at past SITFH prelude events and have plans to speak at the future prelude events. Tacha has written articles to be included in the SITFH field journal and in newsletters. A special FFNHA tent will be included in the Symphony activities.

Advisory Committee Meeting: The committee held a conference call on February 9. Woodall reported that Janae Fuller, Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, and Scott Vieira, Johnson County (KS) Library, were stepping down from the committee. Vieira has moved to Texas to take a job with Sam Houston University. Joining the committee are Alana Smith, Westport Historical Society, Paul Bahnmaier, Lecompton Historical Society, and Cheryl Collins, Riley County Historical Society & Goodnow House.

Board of Trustees: Jody Craig, Board Liaison, gave the report on the December Board of Trustees meeting. (Minutes of that meeting available at: http://www.freedomfrontier.org/trustees/Board_Minutes_12.07.10.pdf.)

National Trust for Historic Preservation: Craig attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting in Austin, TX, October 27-30, 2010. Craig attended a session on National Heritage Areas facilitated by the National Park Service. The session focused on the relationship between the NPS and NHAs.



Workshops

- **Tourism's New Normal workshop, 3/18 and 3/19 is postponed.**
- **KCMLIN Opportunities:** www.kcmlin.org
- **Book Club**

Julie McPike reported that the Tourism's New Normal workshop would be postponed until a later date.

KCMLIN/MALA, the Mid-America Library Alliance offers several workshop opportunities throughout the year. Freedom's Frontier is becoming a partner of the alliance to pass along the reduced, member cost to its partners. To RSVP for a KCMLIN/MALA workshop, contact McPike at jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org. The member cost of a workshop is \$35 as compared to the non-member \$75 fee.

McPike reported on a new project for FFNHA, a book club through the web-chat service Skype. She sent around a sign-up sheet for those interested in participating.

Cheryl Collins spoke about an upcoming workshop opportunity "Shout Out on a Shoe String" a marketing/public relations workshop offered through the Kansas Museums Association. The all-day workshop is Monday, March 28, in Manhattan, Kansas. For more information, please contact Cheryl at ccollins@rileycountyks.gov.

Beth Carmichael reported on a workshop through the St. Joseph Museums Alliance, "New Trends in Board Management" to be held Tuesday, April 5, 8:30am to noon at the Remington Nature Center in St. Joseph. For more details, contact Beth at bcarmichael@stjomo.com. She also spoke about the Missouri Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus Annual Meeting in Springfield, MO, June 5-7. For more information, visit <http://macvb.org/registration/index.htm>.



Projects & Workplan

- **Shared Stories of the Civil War, KHC, Julie Mulvihill**
 - <http://kansashumanities.org/site/programs/shared-stories.html>
- **Website, Map, Signage Study**
- **WORKPLAN**
 - **FY 2010: \$150,000**
 - **FY 2011: \$64,000 (thus far)**

(Continued from previous page) Gordon Julich reminded attendees about the Project Archeology professional development opportunity at Fort Osage, MO, July 19-21. For more information, download the flier at http://www.jacksongov.org/filestorage/3279/3838/3870/Project_Archaeology_Registration_2011.doc.

Julie Mulvihill gave a report on shared stories of the Civil War and asked for submissions about possible story topics.

Julie McPike gave an update on the website and map projects. She shared a draft of the map and asked for partner feedback. She also pointed out some features of the new website that partners will be able to use following the launch of the new site.

Judy Billings gave an update on the signage study.

McPike shared with attendees the decreased amount of federal funding that has been set aside for Freedom's Frontier thus far in 2011. Budget reductions have impacted the projected funding for the heritage area.

Billings & McPike shared the 2010 annual report with attendees.



Presentation & CW 150

- **Speaker's Series?**
- **Big Reenactments?**
- **Other special events?**
- **Regular events "kicked up a notch?"**
- **CW Park Day**

Charles Jones, Freedom's Frontier Board member gave a presentation on the interconnected stories of the heritage area and their power to resonate with people even today.

Attendees discussed ideas for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War as above.



AASLH's StEPs Program

Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations

**Cheryl Collins,
Riley County Historical Society**

Cheryl Collins presented about the AASLH StEPs Program.



AASLH's StEPs Program

What is StEPs?

- **Voluntary program for small & mid-sized history organizations**
- **Encourages awareness & achievement of national standards**
- **Organizational tool to identify strengths, opportunities for improvement & plan for positive change**



Is your organization ready for StEPs?

- **We are interested in learning about standards.**
- **We are willing to take a critical look at our policies and practices.**
- **We are open to change.**
- **We are enthusiastic about planning and setting goals.**
- **We believe these actions can bring us new opportunities, help us serve the community, and improve sustainability.**



But really, what do we need to consider before getting involved in StEPS?

- Time
- Money
- Willingness

How does StEPs work?

- **Enroll**
- **Work through workbook at own pace to assess current performance level and plan for future.**
- **Workbook focuses on six standards sections:**
 1. **Mission, Vision, and Governance**
 2. **Audience**
 3. **Interpretation**
 4. **Collections**
 5. **Historic Structures & Landscapes**
 6. **Management**



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Attendees:

Kerry Altenbernd

Abby Amick

Connie Banwart

Deb Barker

Judy Billings

Bob Burkhart

Bertha Cameron

Beth Carmichael

Peggy Clark

Cheryl Collins

Jan Coykendall

Jody Craig

Jan English

Bill Fischer

Clif Gordon

Pat Gradwohl

Ron Harris

Bill Hawkins

Gordon Julich

Mary Kurtis

Lindsay Madison

George Marcec

Michelle Martin

Julie McPike

Chris Meinhardt

Andrew Mitchell

Julie Mulvihill

Liz Murphy

Regina Nicol

Terry Ramsey

Eileen Robertson

Julie Roller

Tamra Scheid

Roger Slusher

Sandy Slusher

Alana Smith

Liz Smith

Debbie White

Alexis Woodall