



Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, March 15, 2011  
Remington Nature Center  
St. Joseph, MO

The meeting was called to order by Deanell Tacha, Chair. Present were Tacha, Banwart, Benton, Cohen, Craig, Dillingham, English, Ford, Gibson, Glasscock, Jones, Northern, Ramsey, Stroup, Tempel and Judy Billings and Julie McPike. Absent were Arter, Breidenthal, Clark, Dunfield, Kemper, Maag, McCoy, Wagnon and Wood.

Guests present were Marty Sterkel, Assistant Regional Director, Chief of Partnerships, and Sue Pridemore, Heritage Partnership Coordinator, Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service; Beth Carmichael and Marci Bennett from the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau; Sarah Elder, St. Joseph Museums, Inc.; Ann and Dan Rosenthal, Baldwin Emporium, Baldwin City, Kansas; and Luther Smith, Western University Board, Kansas City, Kansas.

Tacha called the meeting to order. With no objections from those in attendance, the December 2010 minutes stand approved.

Dillingham gave the Nominating Committee report and moved the Board elect Kent Glasscock to serve a three-year term. Banwart seconded the motion, which passed. Tacha read a letter from Ike Skelton, thanking the Board for their invitation to join the Board and asking to defer the nomination to a future date.

Board members and guests introduced themselves.

Marci Bennett, Executive Director of the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau, welcomed the Board to St. Joseph and thanked them for their work. Sara Elder, Curator of Collections for St. Joseph Museums, Inc., acquainted the Board with the history of St. Joseph.

Tacha introduced Marty Sterkel and Sue Pridemore. Sterkel spoke about the importance of partnerships with the National Park Service and the role of National Heritage Areas in getting voices to the table and assisting with the mission of the Park Service.

Craig asked about the purpose of program legislation. Sterkel and Pridemore explained that program legislation would create a system for heritage areas, set standards and define the relationship between the Park Service and Heritage Areas. It would bring all existing National Heritage Areas into the Park Service as a program with designated funding. The newly created National Heritage Area Caucus requested that the Park Service draft legislation to create a National Heritage Area program. This draft was delivered to the caucus leaders, Representatives Tonko of New York and Dent of Pennsylvania. Billings has met with the FFNHA delegation both Kansas and Missouri to encourage them to join the caucus but, as yet, none have done so. There was discussion on what changes in the draft legislation would be most beneficial to FFNHA.



A subcommittee was created to review the legislation, mark it up as we would like it introduced and communicate our wishes to the staff of Representatives Tonko and Dent in Washington DC. Subcommittee volunteers included Glasscock, Jones, Craig and Gibson.

Billings asked Sterkel and Pridemore about the National Park Service's expectations for Freedom's Frontier. They explained the three main expectations for a heritage area are to honor the enabling legislation, fiscal integrity and accountability and partnering with NPS units and the regional office.

Billings asked about use of the NPS logo. Sterkel explained that when using the logo, to state that Freedom's Frontier is "a National Heritage Area affiliated with the National Park Service." The NPS logo should not be used on specific marketing material.

Pridemore and Sterkel encouraged the Board to continue to bring people to the table, identify common goals and do the work of the heritage area. Tacha thanked Sterkel and Pridemore.

Ramsey reported on the Partnership Team and Advisory Committee. She noted several highlights from the March Partnership Team meeting, including a partnership with Fort Scott National Historic Site to distribute the Fort Scott and Freedom's Frontier videos to area middle schools, the Kansas Humanities Council's Shared Stories of the Civil War Readers Theater, Grants and Awards Task Forces and Skype Book Club. Ramsey also announced new members on the Advisory Committee and discussed site visit reviews. Ramsey, a member of the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, also announced the second round of a marketing grant for Civil War events in Missouri. McPike announced that the Advisory Committee elected to co-sponsor an upcoming Border Wars conference in April and Billings announced that FFNHA is partnered with Lone Jack Battlefield in submitting a grant application to the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Stroup reported for the Development Committee. She distributed 2011 annual pledge form and noted that the Board nearly met their goal of 100% participation in 2010 and thanked board members who contributed. She reiterated the goal of 100% participation and emphasized the importance of this when asking others to invest in FFNHA. Stroup and McPike are working on a letter and form to invite the Advisory Committee to join the Board in making financial contributions. The Development Committee will meet at 1:00 PM before the June 7 Board Meeting.

McPike reported on the progress of the map project. Billings reported on printing costs and fundraising for the map.

McPike reported on the progress of the website project. Tempel asked how external links will work. McPike explained how the Freedom's Frontier website will link to partner sites and how many partners already link to Freedom's Frontier from their sites. Sterkel explained a website being developed by NPS will help drive traffic to their units and partners.



Tacha reported on the partnership with Symphony in the Flint Hills. She and Billings have spoken at the past prelude events in Wichita, Emporia and Lawrence and are on the schedule to speak at similar events in Kansas City and Topeka. Tacha wrote articles for the Symphony's newsletter and field journal and the *Kansas City Star* is planning an article on the partnership.

Tacha announced that, beginning June 1, she will become the Dean of the Law School at Pepperdine University. For that reason, she is stepping down as chair of Freedom's Frontier. She moved to elect Dillingham as Chair of the Board and offered to replace him as Vice Chair. Stroup seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to the J.C. Wyatt House for dinner hosted by the St. Joseph CVB.



Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, June 7, 2011  
Carnegie Building  
Lawrence, KS

The meeting was called to order by John Dillingham, Chair. Present were Dillingham, Banwart, Benton, Breidenthal, Clark, Dunfield, English, Ford, Glasscock, Jones, Kemper, Northern, Stroup, Wagnon and Wood and Judy Billings and Julie McPike. Absent were Arter, Cohen, Craig, Gibson, Maag, McCoy, Ramsey, Tacha and Tempel. Guests present were Alexa Smith, Freedom's Frontier Communications Intern and Bill Wagnon, Topeka, Kansas.

Stroup moved to approve the April 2011 minutes. Jones seconded the motion, which passed.

McPike reported on the April 14<sup>th</sup> Partner's meeting. Billings discussed the Border War Symposium that will be held November 10-12, 2011.

Billings reported on the amount of federal funding FFNHA is expected to receive in FY11. The financial reports for April were accepted and approved.

Stroup and Wood led discussion of the case statement. The Board suggested that it lead with the Statement of National Significance, followed by a more substantial section on goals, measures of success, and achievements, include discussion of tourism and economic development, followed by information about the organization. Wood suggested engaging the Partnership in a discussion about measures of success.

McPike reported updates on the map project and website. Clark reported on fundraising for the map.

Billings gave an update on Symphony in the Flint Hills and asked for approval of an invoice for \$2,100 for a tent, chairs, etc. for the event. Wood moved to approve payment. Wagnon seconded the motion, which passed.

Billings reported on program legislation and the National Heritage Area caucus both of which were topics of conversation with NPS representatives at the March meeting.

Clark presented and led discussion regarding the Social Media Policy. He moved approval of the policy with suggested changes to clarify the use of "account" in the sentence: "Board members, staff members, partners and all other persons who use any form of social media under the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area name or who reference Freedom's Frontier in any account, either business or private...." Dunfield seconded the motion, which passed.

McPike discussed a social media pilot project with KU students to enhance interpretation in the heritage area. She led the Board on a tour of the Kansas-Nebraska Act exhibit and explained how the technology will work in conjunction with the exhibit, partner sites, and the Freedom's Frontier website.

Billings gave the Board a preview of the permanent Freedom's Frontier-themed exhibit, funded by the City of Lawrence that is being installed in the Carnegie Building.

The meeting was adjourned.



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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



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.





Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, December 6, 2011  
Old Supreme Court Chamber, Room 346S  
Kansas State Capitol  
Topeka, KS

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

Dillingham welcomed the Board and guests and thanked Jim Maag for making the meeting arrangements. Dillingham introduced David Smith, superintendent of Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. Smith gave the board an update on the national historic site and noted that he will be serving as a representative of the NPS on the National Heritage Areas funding formula committee.

Stroup moved to approve the September 2011 minutes. Ford seconded the motion, which passed.

Craig reported on the November 17<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee meeting, announcing the retirement of Carol Bohl and Terry Ramsey and new members Peggy Buhr and Kathy Quigley. There is a vacancy in one of the board liaison positions that the committee will be voting to fill soon. Alexis Woodall will continue serving as Chair and Deborah Barker was elected to serve as Vice Chair. The Advisory Committee voted to exhibit at the March 2012 National Conference on History Education in Kansas City. They approved with changes an Interpretive Grants program and an AASLH StEPs Enrollment Grant and a logo usage policy covering printed and website usage. The committee also created a long-range planning sub-committee and reaffirmed the existing Mission, Goals, and Values. Then next partnership meeting will be Thursday, December 8, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Arabia Steamboat Museum in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jones gave an update on the Border War Conference, held November 10-12 at the Kansas City Public Library and the representation of Freedom's Frontier at that event.

Billings discussed the October 2011 financial report and noted that the November 2011 report would be sent via email. Gibson moved to approve the financial report. Ford second the motion, which carried.

McPike discussed the 2012 workplan. Stroup asked how to differentiate between funding that has been secured and funding that needs to be raised in the budget column. McPike noted that the "Other" category represents money that has not yet been raised. McPike also discussed the National Park Service/Alliance of National Heritage Areas annual report.



Smith reported on the Interpretive Grants Program. Tacha asked for clarification on the cost share. Stroup made note that the program encourages organizations to work together. Dunfield clarified that the funds cannot be used for ongoing operations costs.

Jones reported on the 2012 budget. He highlighted changes from last year's budget, including updating the video and website and the tour project, which McPike explained in more detail. Jones further explained the "Special Projects" line item as involving special pass-through grants. Dillingham asked about the Federal appropriation. David Smith explained the funding formula and the work a special committee will be undertaking to update that formula. Clark moved to approve the budget. Maag seconded the motion, which carried.

In old business, Billings, Smith, and McPike reported on the Midwest National Heritage Areas meeting they attended November 1-3 in Springfield, Illinois. Billings reported about the status of the signage plan. She is working with a firm to get some in-kind services donated for the plan. Billings also reported on the Tacha Freedom Award, which will be similar in concept to a National History Day competition. The monetary award will be given to a Missouri and Kansas high school junior who create an original work related to one of the Freedom's Frontier themes. Submissions will be solicited through our partner sites and organizations.

Dillingham recognized retiring board members Joan Wagnon, Emanuel Northern, Terry Ramsey, and Elle McCoy.

Dillingham reported that the nominating committee offered the following nominees for board members with terms expiring in 2014:

Bill Tempel

Jody Craig

A member selected by the Advisory Committee

Bill Wagnon

Shelia Lampe

Luther Smith

Joanne Collins (filling a board term set to expire in 2013)

Dillingham moved to accept the nominees. Benton seconded the motion, which carried.

Billings reported to the board that she would publicly announce her retirement at the upcoming Partners Meeting. She noted that Stroup and Dillingham are serving, along with the Destination Management, Inc. board, on a search committee to fill the position.

The meeting was adjourned.