



Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 6, 2012
Battle of Westport Museum & Visitors Center
Kansas City, MO

The meeting was called to order by John Dillingham, Chair. Present were Dillingham, Banwart, Barker, Benton, Clark, Cohen, Collins, Craig, Dunfield, Ford, Gibson, Smith, Tempel, and Wood, and Julie McPike, and Sonia Smith. Absent were Arter, Breidenthal, English, Glasscock, Jones, Kemper, Lampe, Maag, Stroup, Tacha, and Wagnon. Guests present were Emanuel Northern, Kansas City, KS, and Alexa Smith and Dan Smith, Overland Park, KS.

Dillingham welcomed the Board and guests, introduced new Board members and thanked Dan Smith for making the meeting arrangements. Dan Smith welcomed Board members to the Battle of Westport Museum.

Cohen moved to approve the December 2011 minutes. Benton seconded the motion, which passed.

Barker reported on the February 9th Partner meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting were upcoming conferences, including the Kansas Libraries Association Conference, National Council on Public History Conference, and National Conference of History Educators, 2012 Freedom's Frontier visitor survey, FFNHA Book Club, Grant Program, Signage Study, and an opportunity to host a Kansas Humanities Council Shared Stories program with financial and technical assistance from KHC.

McPike discussed the January 2012 financial report. She noted that the December Federal Request for Reimbursement had been received on January 6 for \$81,000 and another request was submitted on February 28 for \$43,000. McPike also noted that the Modification and SF425 for FY12 have been submitted setting aside \$310,000, of which \$15,000 is a Technical Assistance Grant and \$295,000 must be matched. McPike reported that some of this match has been achieved with pass-through grants. McPike noted that the Modification is written through 2021 and that funds not expended by September 30, 2012 will carry over. McPike noted updates to the 2012 workplan, reflecting the \$295,000 set aside in FY12.

Wood reported that the signage plan is moving forward. An agreement has been signed with Frank Weatherford of Transystems to provide donated labor for the signage plan.

McPike shared input from the December Partnership Team Meeting on the Freedom Award. Partners suggested moving the competition period to the spring to better coincide with the school year. Craig asked if a student outside the boundaries of Freedom's Frontier could participate. As written, the rules seem to exclude students that do not live in one of the 41 counties. Banwart suggested providing partners with examples of the kinds of projects and topics. Craig suggested asking partners to donate to the effort. Clark made a motion to move the competition period to the



spring. Wood offered an amendment that the rules include students that reside in or attend school in Freedom's Frontier. Clark accepted the amendment. Craig seconded the motion, which passed.

Sonia Smith gave an update on Interpretive Grants and outlined the process for their review. Wood suggested capturing best practices from each grant to share with other partners in the heritage area.

Dunfield gave an update on the Executive Director search. No formal offer has been made.

McPike announced that Judy Billing's retirement party will be held Wednesday, May 2, from 4:00-6:00 P.M.

Dillingham announced that the Executive Committee and Advisory Committee have developed an idea to honor Billings with a "Most Valuable Partner" Award. Guidelines will need to be developed. Dunfield moved to approve the idea. Gibson seconded the motion, which passed.

The meeting was adjourned for Dan Smith to present a program about the Battle of Westport and the progress to restore the battlefield around Byram's Ford.



Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, June 26, 2012
Miami County Historical Museum
Paola, KS

The meeting was called to order by Kala Stroup, Executive Committee Member-At-Large. Present were Banwart, Barker, Benton, Craig, Dunfield, Ford, Gibson, Glasscock, Jones, Lampe, Maag, Smith, Stroup, Tempel, and Wood, and Fred Conboy, Julie McPike, and Sonia Smith. Absent were Arter, Breidenthal, Clark, Cohen, Collins, Dillingham, English, Kemper, Tacha, and Wagnon. Guests present were Jim Banwart, Fort Scott, KS and Joe Hursey, Paola, KS.

Stroup welcomed the Board and guests, introduced new Board members and thanked Mike Gibson for making the meeting arrangements. Gibson and Joe Hursey welcomed Board members to the Miami County Historical Museum. Conboy introduced himself and spoke about his vision to move the heritage area forward as the Executive Director. He stated that he would be setting up meetings with each board member in order to work toward building relationships with key partners. Stroup expressed thanks on behalf of the board to McPike and Sonia Smith for their work during the transition to new leadership.

Benton moved to approve the March 2012 minutes. Dunfield seconded the motion, which passed.

Barker reported on the June 14th Partner meeting. Conboy introduced himself to the partners. Topics discussed at the meeting were the Skype book club, which Barker noted was a great example of working together despite of the miles that separate us, traveling exhibits catalog and partner brochure request on the web and the STEM initiative. Sonia Smith reported on the presentation about connecting with the press that she gave during the partners' meeting.

Glasscock moved approval of the financial reports. Jones seconded the motion, which passed.

Stroup reminded the Board of their goal for 100% participation in Board giving. She distributed pledge forms.

Conboy spoke about long term fundraising goals, including the creation of an endowment.

McPike reported to the Board on the Boys & Girls Club day camps "Keeping the Dream Alive" which explore Civil War to Civil Rights through local history. The camps are funded by the National Park Foundation through a partnership with Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. Initial planning is beginning for continuing the camps next summer.

McPike brought a draft copy of the Tacha Award to the Board. She discussed changes in the award. Jones suggested the board adopt the award, subject to review by a committee. Glasscock offered an amendment that the chair of the board appoint a committee and that the committee suggest the monetary award amount. Ford seconded the motion and amendment, which passed.



Sonia Smith reported on the second round of interpretive grants. Notifications are being sent out to successful applicants.

McPike shared information with the Board about the National Park Service and Midwest Region NHAs STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) educational initiative. Board members offered several ideas for partners and funders for STEM in Freedom's Frontier.

McPike discussed 2013 Cross-Border Commemoration Partners committee and ideas for a Listening Tour of Freedom's Frontier. Stroup suggested stops on a listening tour should be held in conjunction with Board meetings.

Temple asked about the signage study. McPike responded that she did not have an update but would check with Kevin Wood and Frank Weatherford and provide an update to the board via email.

The meeting was adjourned.



Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Helzberg Auditorium, Kansas City Public Library
Kansas City, MO

The meeting was called to order by John Dillingham, Chair. Present were Arter, Barker, Breidenthal, Cohen, Collins, Craig, Dillingham, Dunfield, Fortunato, Ford, Glasscock, Jones, Kemper, Smith, Stroup, Tempel, Wagnon, and Wood, and Fred Conboy, Julie McPike, and Sonia Smith. Absent were Banwart, Benton, Clark, English, Gibson, Lampe, Maag, and Tacha.

Dillingham welcomed the Board and guests, introduced new Board members and thanked Crosby Kemper and Henry Fortunato for making the meeting arrangements.

Glasscock moved to approve the June 2012 minutes. Craig seconded the motion, which passed.

Dillingham discussed the effort to set up Freedom's Frontier and the stories that impacted the area.

McPike gave a report on the August partners meeting in Wakefield, Kansas on August 9. Tracie Lamb, Kansas History Day, presented about history day and discussed partnership possibilities. Attendees workshopped ideas for the 2013 Workplan.

Sonia Smith gave a report on the Freedom's Frontier interpretive grants. She noted that over \$45,000 in grants have been awarded to 12 organizations with the goal of helping partners reach higher interpretive standards. Smith noted that Franklin County Historical Society had received a grant and that Mount Mora Cemetery had finished a grant project. Ford outlined his role in the Mount Mora Cemetery video project.

Conboy recognized General Arter for being awarded with the Doniphan Award.

Conboy outlined the FY 11 workplan, noting that there is \$117,000 remaining under that workplan that needs to be matched. He thanked the Board for their participation and stressed that the priority for giving was unrestricted operational funds. Conboy noted that he will be working to develop an action plan to meet the \$117,000 fundraising. He noted that Kevin Wood indicated that he will help establish a legacy program. Conboy encouraged the board to continue to work to find greater financial support for Freedom's Frontier and for its partners.

Conboy shared information about his meetings in Fort Scott, facilitated by Connie Banwart. He noted that as a result of those meetings, the *Fort Scott Tribune* carried a story about Freedom's Frontier, the Lowell Milken Foundation became partners, and we are working with the city to become partners, as well.

Conboy shared that he, Craig, Smith, and McPike will meet with Frank Weatherford to discuss the signage study following the Board meeting. Dillingham shared an idea about naming U.S. Highway



71, which will soon become Interstate 49, the “Freedom’s Frontier National Highway” and urged the committee to consider it in coordination with the signage plan.

McPike reported on the Tacha Freedom Award. Board members gave notes on a letter prepared to go along with the award notification. Charles Jones and Jody Craig volunteered to serve on committees to consider the award and an annual event at which the award would be presented.

McPike updated the Board on the 2013 Workplan. The workplan is used to communicate our plans for federal funds to the NPS, our partners and the public. It also communicates to the board what fundraising is necessary to carry out the work for the next year. The board discussed pass-through grants and requested that the pass-through grants language be looked at from a legal standpoint for liabilities and barriers. They also would like to better educate partners about how to solicit and/or encourage pass-through granting.

Stroup reported that the board is currently at 80% participation in board annual giving and encouraged everyone to submit their donations to Freedom’s Frontier.

Conboy encouraged the board to identify prospects for cultivation and solicitation.

The meeting was adjourned.



Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2012
Old Depot Museum
Ottawa, KS

The meeting was called to order by John Dillingham, Chair. Present were Banwart, Barker, Benton, Clark, Collins, Craig, Dillingham, Ford, Gibson, Jones, Maag, Smith, and Wagnon and Fred Conboy, Julie McPike, and Sonia Smith. Absent were Arter, Breidenthal, Cohen, Dunfield, English, Glasscock, Kemper, Lampe, Stroup, Tempel, Tacha and Wood.

Dillingham called the meeting to order at 2:10.

Collins moved to approve the September 2012 minutes. Ford seconded the motion, which passed.

Dillingham gave a report of the board chair. He encouraged full board participation in giving to Freedom's Frontier at any level. He gave a report on the sesquicentennial commemoration of the Battle of Island Mound and dedication of the new Missouri State Historic Site at Island Mound. Dillingham made brief remarks at the Friday evening event at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center in Kansas City. He has also reached out to Retired Brigadier General Donald Scott, the keynote speaker for the event, to get him more acquainted with the mission of Freedom's Frontier. Clark recently participated in the dedication of interpretive signage at the Battle of Mine Creek State Historic Site that will give visitors an interpretive experience of the historic site when the visitors center is closed. The signage was made possible by a gift from the Charles and Virginia Clark Fund through the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Dillingham discussed the Lincoln Collection at the University of St. Mary and a possible partnership between St. Mary and other colleges and universities that could benefit Freedom's Frontier. Craig asked about the hours of the collection and if the University would be amenable to loaning pieces of the collection out for exhibition. Attendees brainstormed sites that could host such an exhibition and mentioned the Kansas City Public Library, the National Archives at Kansas City, and the Spencer at KU.

Barker gave an update from the October partners meeting. The group met in Butler, Missouri. Bill Fischer gave a workshop on walking and driving tours. Staff updated attendees about the website/calendar, visitor surveys, book club, cross-border commemoration, outreach with educators. Attendees discussed listening tours and priorities for the 2013 workplan. Dillingham asked about attendance and the longevity of the partnership. Barker responded that the group has been meeting in one form or another since the late 1990s. Craig added that partners are fairly positive and are eager for more opportunities to partner with Freedom's Frontier through avenues such as signage. Barker noted a desire among partners to explore more of our shared history in depth during the meetings. Banwart and Craig noted the valuable workshop topics presented to partners at meetings.



Conboy gave a report from the Executive Director. He thanked Barker for hosting the meeting and thanked Dillingham for his efforts. Conboy shared his experience at the Island Mound dedication and informed the board about the City of Lawrence's \$20,000 investment in the 2013 commemoration of the sesquicentennial of Quantrill's Raid. Brenna Buchanan will be the local coordinator of the commemoration. She can be reached at 1863@visitlawrence.com. Conboy mentioned that McPike is coordinating a cross-border bus tour of Quantrill's Raid with Freedom's Frontier partners and that the Lawrence Arts Center is currently producing a kick-off event for the commemoration with "A Kansas Nutcracker."

Conboy recognized Craig for her work on behalf of Freedom's Frontier and her invitation to Conboy to present information about Freedom's Frontier and the upcoming signage plan to the MARC board. Craig is retiring from MARC but will continue her service on the Freedom's Frontier board.

Conboy outlined activities and priorities from the 2013 Workplan and noted the updated November financial reports. He noted the upward trend in giving by the board over the past three years.

Conboy discussed a potential pass-through \$265,000 matching opportunity through Douglas County's commitment to support heritage organizations. He has received informal opinions from Deanell Tacha and Webb Golden regarding the legality of pass-through. His next step is to secure a written legal opinion.

Conboy presented the 2013 proposed budget. Craig moved approval and Wagon seconded. Wagon asked about the current gap in the proposed and actual budgets and asked if the 2013 budget was realistic. McPike noted that the current funding line items are more in line with granting potential and asked board members to assist with developing investment opportunities through city and county governments. Wagon suggested using Douglas County as a model for pass-through grants. Jones questioned if staff had the capacity to accomplish all the things listed in the workplan and in the budget. He stressed that the board needs to be more aggressive in fundraising in addition to building capacity of staff. Conboy noted that the proposed budget strikes a balance between idealism and realism. Collins called the question. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.

Dillingham gave a report from the nominating committee. Ford, Benton, and Breidenthal will be renewing their expiring term. Jones, Cohen, and Maag will allow their terms to expire at the end of the year. Dillingham presented certificates to Jones and Maag and thanked them for their service. Dillingham recommended the following slate for the expiring terms on the board's executive committee: Clark, treasurer; Craig, member-at-large; Benton, member-at-large. Jones moved to approve the slate. Ford seconded the motion, which carried. Dillingham asked that suggestions for new members be submitted to him or Conboy. Jones thanked the board for their friendship and urged them to think about the changing needs of the board when nominating new members. Maag joined Jones in his remarks.



Smith discussed the signage process. She noted the goals of the signage study, funding strategy, committee members and timeline.

McPike updated the board on the Tacha Award and noted that Dunfield will work with her on the Billings MVP Award. Dillingham reminded the board about the idea behind the Billings Award and Conboy urged members to submit their ideas about criteria to Dunfield.

Smith gave an update on interpretive grants. Including the current grant applications, which have not been reviewed, \$72,000 has been requested in funds and \$80,500 presented in matching funding. Maag asked about the geographic distribution of grants awarded and applications received. Smith responded with the location from which grants have been received. Ford asked if Fort Leavenworth had submitted a grant application.

McPike asked the board for direction to completing single source justification paperwork in order to continue the management contract with DMI or to write an RFP to get bids for management. Jones offered pros and cons to putting the work out for an RFP. After board discussion, Jones moved to direct McPike to complete sole source justification to the maximum term deemed appropriate to extend the relationship between Freedom's Frontier and DMI. Collins seconded the motion which passed.

Conboy asked the attendees for their opinion regarding meeting times. Midweek at 2:00 PM was deemed the best time for meeting.

Wagnon moved to adjourn. Ford seconded.