



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2015
Kansas National Guard Armory
Council Grove, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Larry Hicks** (for Ben Bennett), Geary County Commissioner; **Rich Jankovich**, Manhattan City Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, City of Riley Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Vic Enns**, City of Wamego; **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Jenifer Hanneman**, City of Reading; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Kristie Ogilvie**, Emporia State University; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Brande Studer**, Chase County Clerk; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor.

Present from the Greater Regional Council Membership: *No additional members present.*

Present from Staff Support: **Jeff Adams**, Regional Planner; **Shelley Carver**, Community Development Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Guests: **Jack Allston**, Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation; **Shekinah Bailey**, USDA General Field Representative; **Lyle Butler**, City of Manhattan Chamber President; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Ron Fehr**, Manhattan City Manager; **Tracy Henry**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director; **Kay Hutchinson**, Greater Morris County Development Executive Director; **Ken McClintock**, Historic Preservation Corporation Secretary; **Will Paskow**, Fort Riley Director of Emergency Services; **Robert Reece**, Pottawatomie County Administrator; **Samuel Seeley**, Lyon County Planning/Zoning Director; **Tom Weigand**, Junction City Chamber CEO; **Casey Woods**, Emporia Main Street Director; **Nathan Woolard**, Emporia State University School of Business Director; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County/Milford Planning & Zoning Director.

WELCOME:

- David Shover, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and invited the board members, staff and meeting guests to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:

- Vice President Rich Jankovich motioned for the January 9, 2015 meeting minutes to be approved with no corrections. Member Vern Hay seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

UPDATES:

➤ **Finance/Budget Review**

- 1) Gary Stith, Director, presented board members the bank and budget slides for the finance/budget review.
- 2) The HUD Grant is currently 93% completed as of 02/16/15.
- 3) The bank account has a balance of \$329,183.28, which includes \$81,723.10 in MPO funding, as of 02/16/15.

➤ **Staff Activity and Updates**

- 1) The Fort Riley PEA Listening Session was a huge success. There were 4,203 people in attendance and 3,000 Internet viewers. Shelley Carver, Community Development Manager, provided an instrumental amount of staff support for this successful event.
- 2) Sondra Clark has been hired as the Transit Administrator/Mobility Manager for the Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration. She will begin employment on March 23, 2015.
- 3) The City of Waterville Historic Preservation Grant was awarded and Shelley Carver managed the application for this community.
- 4) Fair Housing Study work is ongoing for the Frontiers Project.
- 5) KARDO Strategic Doing Training will be conducted in Emporia and Clay Center.
- 6) Staff is currently working with the chambers and economic development organizations on the Regional Economic Development Partnership.

PRESENTATIONS:

➤ **Site Selection Tool**

- Jeff Adams, Regional Planner, gave a brief overview & viewing of the Flint Hills Regional Council's Site Selection Tool.
- The Flint Hills Economic Development District website will be launched in March 2015.
- There will be administrator access for the key economic development personnel in each city/county.

➤ **Leader's Retreat Overview**

- Lyle Butler, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce President, gave a brief overview of outcomes from the 2015 Leader's Retreat.

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2015**

- The five TAGS (Target Advisory Groups) that were developed and are working towards addressing regional concerns are Regional Asset Development, Regional Workforce and Industry Cluster, Regional Transportation, Regional Branding & Marketing and Regionalism in Practice.
- The complete PowerPoint presentation will be posted to www.flinthillsregion.org.

➤ **Emporia Main Street**

- Casey Woods, Emporia Main Street Executive Director, gave a brief overview of the project.
- The mission of the project is to sustain and grow Emporia's local economy by applying the four-point approach of business – enhancement, promotions, design and organization. The vision is to create a thriving entrepreneurial community.
- Highlights of the project include, but are not limited to: Over \$67M in total district reinvestment, 339 new downtown businesses, 837 jobs created and 64,000 volunteer hours worked.
- To view more information about the Emporia Main Street project, go to www.emporiainstreet.com.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

➤ **Economic Development Updates from around the Region**

- There were a number of presentations on the economic development efforts throughout the region.
- Representatives from the following areas gave updates:
 - 1) Lyle Butler – Manhattan/Riley County
 - 2) Tom Weigand – Junction City/Geary County
 - 3) Jack Allston – Pottawatomie County
 - 4) Kay Hutchinson – Council Grove/Morris County
 - 5) Dr. Nathan Woolard & Sam Seeley – Emporia State University/Lyon County
 - 6) Abby Amick – Wabaunsee County

➤ **Fort Riley Access Control**

- Will Paskow, Fort Riley Director of Emergency Services, gave a brief overview of the changes in access control to the installation.
- Non-DOD Personnel: Background checks will be conducted once the Fort Riley 103 Form is completed and submitted to the Visitor Control Center that is located off Exit# 301.
- No ID is required for children 16 years of age or younger.
- Access Control information will be placed on the Flint Hills Regional Council website.
- Timetable for access:
 - 1) February 16, 2015 – Restricted Access to three gates
 - 2) March 2, 2015 – Authorized DOD IDs or Badges needed

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2015**

- 3) April 1, 2015 – No access without authorized identification

CITY/COUNTY/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley
 - Tim Livsey had no additional updates.
- Governor's Military Council
 - John Armbrust thanked the communities for their participation in the Fort Riley PEA Listening Session. He also stressed the importance of patience for awaiting feedback from Washington, DC.
- Kansas State University
 - Jackie Hartman was not in attendance at the meeting.
- Emporia State University
 - Kristie Ogilvie was not in attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

- President David Shover informed the board that they would be losing at least four board members, two of which serve in key positions on the Executive Committee in April. Those members include: President David Shover (Riley/Leonardville), Vice President Rich Jankovich (Manhattan), Member Cecil Aska (Junction City) and Member Debi Schwerdtfeger (Council Grove). Elections will need to be held during the March meeting for the two President and Vice President positions.
- The FHRC Executive Committee is scheduled to meet Monday, March 16, 2015.
- Next month's board meeting (April 17, 2015) will be held in Alta Vista, KS. Location: TBD
- Vice President Rich Jankovich motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 12:23 p.m. Member Cecil Aska seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.