



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Board Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2016
Manhattan, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego Commissioner; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Mayor; **Darci Pottroff**, City of Riley Councilwoman; **Jim Sands** (*for Mike Ryan*), Junction City Commissioner; **Traci Scott** (*for Tim Livsey*), Fort Riley; **James E. Williams**, Emporia State University; and **Lee Wolf**, City of Chapman Councilman.

Absent from the Board: **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Steve Harmon**, City of Emporia Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County; **Susan McKenzie**, City of White City - City Clerk; **Dale Renfro**, City of Onaga Councilman; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Jeff Rosell**, City of Westmoreland Councilman; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, City of Clay Center Mayor. **Lee Wolf**, City of Chapman Councilman.

Present from Staff Support: **Sondra Clark**, Transit Administrator/Mobility Manager; **Unique Hiram**, Administrative Manager; **Jennifer Jordan**, Regional Planning Manager; **Austin Masters**, Community Development Manager; **Gary Stith**, Director; and **Stephanie Watts**, Transportation Planning Manager.

Guests: **Emily Connell**, Flint Hills Map & Education Program Project Director; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **Criss Mayfield**, Human Resource Management Network Government Affairs Liaison; **SEN Jeff Longbine**, State of Kansas; **Bruce McMillan**, CEDS Chair; **REP Tom Phillips**, State of Kansas; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **REP Susie Swanson**, State of Kansas; **Dewey Terrill**, KJCK Reporter; **Monty Wedel**, Riley County Planning Director; **Anne B. Wilson**, Flint Hills Map & Education Program Project Coordinator; and **David Yearout**, Junction City/Geary County/Milford Planning & Zoning Director.

WELCOME:

- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and invited the board members, staff, and meeting guests to introduce themselves.
- Member Karen McCulloh and Manhattan City Manager Ron Fehr, welcomed the board, staff and guests. Some of the items highlighted were: Phase 2 of MHK (will be completed in October 2016), New Mall Theatre (scheduled for a Labor Day opening), subdivision infrastructure work being completed in several different locations around the city, new Parks & Recreation space, and rental housing inspection program.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- Member Karen McCulloh motioned for the May 20, 2016 meeting minutes to be approved as presented. Member Honey Grant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:

Staff Activities & Updates

- Gary Stith, Director, gave an update about what the staff is currently working on throughout the region.

Finance/Budget Review

- The bank balance, as of June 16, 2016, is \$221,547.46 with \$66,854.78 belonging to the FHMPO.
- There are no outstanding reimbursement requests at this time.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **2016 Legislative Discussion / Updates**
 - Senator Jeff Longbine (District 17), REP Susie Swanson (District 64) and REP Tom Phillips (District 67) lead a discussion on the 2016 Legislation. Some of the items discussed included the following:
 1. Budget Shortfall – On June 30th, there should be revenue forecasts and updates provided.
 2. Large Rural Telecom Bill – Increase broadband communities, fiber in small communities.
 3. Medicaid - \$95M cut in program funding.
 4. KPERS – Currently owed \$100M
 5. Internet Sales – Currently losing \$400K.
 6. Sales Tax Revenue – There factors that have contributed to the shortfall include the Department of Revenue not gauging crossover, job losses in Wichita (25K) and loss revenue in internet sales.
- **Flint Hills Map & Education Program**
 - Emily Hunter Connell, Project Director, and Anne B. Wilson, Project Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Flint Hills Map & Education Program.
 1. The grassroots program is focused on the Flint Hills and was developed by a regional team of educators, scientists, ranchers and area experts.
 2. Two-part program that includes an exhibit (48" x 48") and K-12 educational program that includes over 250 learning activities.
 3. The map is available for any of the regional schools.
 4. Website: www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/map

CITY/COUNCIL/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley – Traci Scott, Regional Liaison Officer, reported the following:
 - The installation had their 99th successful Victory Week.
 - Brigadier General (BG) Bill Turner will be the new Deputy Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division.
 - Colonel (COL) Charles Masaracchia will be the new Chief of Staff.
 - Redeployment of the 2nd Brigade will occur sometime in July.
 - 1st Brigade will be attending NTC in the near future.

- Kansas State University - Jackie Hartman, Office of the President, was not in attendance at the meeting.

- Governor's Military Council – John Armbrust reported on the following:
 - GEN Wiggins should be in the area in September 2016 and the transition of duties will begin in October 2016.
 - The Great American Defense Region award will be presented on Tuesday, June 22, 2016.

- Emporia State University - James E. Williams, Vice President of Student Affairs, reported the following:
 - Dirty Kanza 200 was a huge success.

- City of Chapman – Member Lee Wolf, City Councilman, reported on the following:
 - The search is underway for a new city administrator.

- City of Clay Center – REP Susie Swanson, State of Kansas, reported on the following:
 - New Animal Shelter.

- Geary County – Member Ben Bennett, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
 - Upcoming 2016 Elections.
 - Concern about economic base (i.e. school district).

- City of Grandview Plaza – Board Secretary & Member Honey Grant, Vice-Mayor, reported on the following:
 - aTa Bus Routes.
 - Street Construction Work.
 - Grant Work for Splash Park.

- City of Junction City – Member Jim Sands, County Commissioner, reported on the following:
 - Sundown Salute (July 4th Celebration).
 - Work Ready Community.
 - New Municipal Court Building.
 - Work underway (Exit# 295 / Highway 77).
 - Jam in JC (September 2017).

- City of Woodbine – Member MarySue Roller was not in attendance at the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- Proposed Bylaws Revision Discussion – Member Ben Bennett motioned as a result of the change to the local elections the FHRC should revise their annual election accordingly. The current timeframe displayed in the Bylaws is August – July. The new change would reflect March – February. Member Jim Sands seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Term Extension for Current Executive Committee – Member Karen McCulloh motioned for the current Executive Committee’s terms to be extended until March 2017. Member Jim Sands seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- 2017 Nominating Committee - Member Vic Enns motioned for the following board members to serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee: Ben Bennett, Karen McCulloh and Honey Grant. Member Jim Sands seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The July 15, 2016 meeting will be held in Morris County/Council Grove. The location is the Morris County District Court, 501 West Main Street, Council Grove, KS 66846.
- FHRC Board President Robert Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.