



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Minutes – March 23, 2012

Life's Finer Moments Lodge

Clay Center, KS 67432

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **John Armbrust**, Governor's Military Council; **Cecil Aska**, Junction City Commissioner; **Donna Baer**, Riley City Councilwoman (*for David Stover II*); **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Commissioner; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Linda Hoeffner**, Fort Riley; **Joe Kormanik**, Alta Vista Commissioner; **Karen McCulloh**, Riley County Commissioner; **Lynn Peterson**, Abilene Mayor; **MarySue Roller**, Woodbine City Councilwoman; **David Shover II**, Riley City Mayor; **Ervan Stuewe**, Wabaunsee County Commissioner; and **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor.

Absent from the Board: **Dan Deiter**, Alma City Council; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Galen Johnson**, Dwight City Mayor; **Debi Schwerdtfeger**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Jim Sherow**, Manhattan Mayor; and **Phil Weishaar**, Chapman Mayor.

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

Present from Staff Support: **Ty Warner AICP**, Executive Director, **Unique Hiram M.S.**, Administrative Manager and **Jeff Adams PhD**, Regional Planner.

Guests: **Abby Amick**, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Director; **Bill Calloway**, Clay Center Public Utilities Commission; **Karen Davis**, City of Manhattan Community Development Director; **David Dillner**, Abilene City Manager; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley Regional Liaison Officer; **Representative Vern Swanson**, District 64; and **David Yearout**, Junction City / Geary County Planning Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Vern Hay, FHRC President, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

WELCOME:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher, Clay Center Mayor, welcomed all of the board members, staff & guests to Clay Center and the new facility, Life's Finer Moments Lodge owned by the Cott family. He also informed the attendees that the sales tax money (\$30K) generated would be used for roadwork

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Minutes of March 23, 2012**

throughout the city and the fact that there is a new water facility, which has been built.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member Jimmy Thatcher motioned for the February 2012 minutes to be approved. Member Stan Hartwich seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Ty Warner, FHRC Executive Director, explained the additional column added to the Financial Report that will be used to track the HUD Grant Reimbursements/Expenditures just as the OEA Grant column has done previously for that particular funding source. Additionally, he explained that the HUD Grant funding is based on a reimbursement basis whereas the OEA Grant is based on an advance basis.
- Warner announced that the 18-month OEA Grant was approved for FY 2012–2013.
- Member Karen McCulloh, FHRC Treasurer, stated that no vote needed to be taken in order to approve the financial report. The report will be filed so that it is available for any future audits.

HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS:

Jeff Adams, FHRC Regional Planner, gave a brief presentation on the housing information that was gathered and shared with Colonel William J. Clark.

- According to 2010 U.S. Census Reports – there were 30,027 rental units and 2,469 vacant rental-housing units throughout the seven-county region.
- According to a FHRC survey of current members there are 1264 units under development (proposed) and 4436 lots where no work is currently being done but is considered (projected) throughout the region.
- Based on U.S. Census building permit trend data from 2000-2010 in the Metropolitan Statistical Area of Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley counties, the data anticipates the development of 1,506 more two family or more units by 2014. If all rentals, and not just multi-family are considered the projection would rise to nearly 2,000 rental units built by 2014.
- When considering the competition for these rentals by Single Senior Officers and KSU students a review of KSU Data estimates 946 new students by 2014, accounting for a 378 rental unit demand.

HUD GRANT UPDATE:

- The HUD Grant is retroactive to March 1, 2012 and it was determined that the Regional Planners' salary will be paid out of this funding source beginning with that date due to the revisions that had to be completed with the OEA Grant.

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Minutes of March 23, 2012**

- Adams attended a two-day training session in Washington, DC that specified the guidelines (e.g. reporting deadlines) of what is required to operate effectively utilizing the HUD Grant.
- A consortium group is currently being assembled which consists of the staff, key partners, and other consortium members. There is a draft work plan as well as draft consortium agreement which have been created to be reviewed by the staff and key partners.
- Strategies will be created and implemented by staff and key partners. Additionally, there will be various work groups put into place that will work towards accomplishing the goals/measures set forth by what has been placed in the HUD application.
- The organization structure is currently being restructured.
- A Fair Housing Equitable Analysis will be completed.
- There will be at least one hire completed within the next month and a strong candidate has been identified.
- The Key Partners are scheduled to meet 04/12/2012 and there will be some subcommittees implemented for various projects.
- There are a total of 30 partners on this grant with the FHRC named as the lead agency.
- The end goal for this HUD Grant is a vision for the Flint Hills region and a model to help local decision-makers assess the impact of local decisions. The project will explore six livability principles as they may apply to the Flint Hills region, including principles of housing, transportation and economic development.

JOINT CHAMBER RETREAT RECAP:

Warner shared some of the highlights from the 2012 Flint Hills Region Chambers of Commerce Leadership Retreat held in January 2012 (Overland Park, KS).

- The summary report that was compiled and distributed by Shockey Consulting Services, LLC was handed out during the board meeting.
- There were 250 attendees from the Manhattan, Junction City and Geary County Chambers.
- Involvement and discussion were great amongst the attendees and strategies for a variety of concerns were posted along the walls for collaboration efforts. Member Ben Bennett added that there was a birth of regional economic development ideas due to the collaboration exercise.
- Specific page numbers in the summary report that were pointed out included the following: 1, 2, 7, 9, 17, 18, 20 & 21.

CORRIDOR ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE (K-177 & US 77):

- Senate Bill 177 on Taxation was opposed due to the fact that it was initially written for KDOT to fund \$362M and have it repaid over a multi-year timeframe.
- K-177 – There is \$25M to be spent on this project and it is still in the planning process. An Open House meeting will be held at the First Baptist Church of Alta Vista on Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. will be held

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Minutes of March 23, 2012**

to allow specific inputs and/or recommendations, which can be made by the public.

- US-77 – An Open House meeting will be held at Junction City Middle School on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. This project is still in the planning process and there may not be any funding available until 2016.
- Kansas Route 57 stoplights are funded and work will begin in this spring (Junction City) due to the number of accidents that have occurred in this vicinity.
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- Member Ben Bennett, At-Large, held a discussion about the Motor Vehicle Tax, which would require moving money from KDOT funding \$58M up to a four-year period. There is a tax cap that was amended to 3% in the House Bill.
- LEP Funding – there is no word on the progress on the bill in the House.
- There is a future goal for the Legislative Committee to meet earlier before the state congressional sessions in order to engage legislators like Representative Vern Swanson about issues/concerns. Ben Bennett will facilitate.
- Member Vern Hay provided dialogue and discussion about the unfunded federal mandate by the Federal Highway Administration, which will increase the cost of bridge inspections to \$1,000. The cost of steel bridges annual inspections will cost \$3,500.

FORT RILEY UPDATE:

- Linda Hoeffner, Fort Riley Deputy Garrison Commander, announced that 1st Division has started his deployment preparations. The advance party will be departing on April 2, 2012. 4th Brigade will be leaving during the summer months.
- There will be a conference held at Fort Stewart (GA) in May 2012 to review which current programs/services being provided by Garrison should be retained, reduced or eliminated due to the \$2.5B Army budget reduction in FY 2014.
- In July 2012, there will be a scheduled tour/training at Fort Riley and the FHRC Board along with surrounding chambers will be invited/encouraged to attend this event.
- In regards to the Community Partnership Conferences (CPC), there are discontinued at this time and may be re-tooled in partnership with the Flint Hills Regional Council. The regular updates provided at the FHRC have supplanted the CPCs on a more regular, continuing-dialogue basis.
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GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL UPDATE

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council, announced that in mid-April a DC consultant would be hired to work on the defense downsizing agenda.
- During the ADC Conference that was held on February 28-29, 2012, the "Hot Topic" was partnerships, and the Secretary of Defense will be talking about

**Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors
Minutes of March 23, 2012**

partnerships with a caucus in DC during the week of March 30, 2012. Armbrust will be attending these meetings and he will share information at the next board meeting in April.

- The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is still in discussions about the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Warner announced that the Senate did pass Senate Bill 1813, which increases the threshold population for MPOs to 200,000. The Senate bill now moves to the House, where there was little support for the House proposal (H.R. 7).
- A continuing resolution of the existing transportation bill would be advantageous in order to achieve the MPO designation before a new bill is passed.
- The 2011 U.S. Census Urbanized Area data may be released on March 26, 2012.
- A Symphony in the Flint Hills Prelude event will be held on 03/27/2012 at Munson Angus Farms Black Hitch Event Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING:

- Member Ben Bennett announced the merger completion of the Geary County/Junction City Chamber of Commerce. He also mentioned that Tom Weigand has been named the new CEO.
- Member Karen McCulloh reminded everyone about the opening date and time for the Manhattan Discovery Center, which will be April 14, 2012 at 10 a.m. Additionally, she mentioned the Country Stampede that will take place June 21-24, 2012 at Tuttle Creek State Park.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- Member Vic Enns motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 11:44 a.m. Member Karen McCulloh seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.