

FHRC Board of Directors
September 19, 2014
White City, Kansas

Present from Board of Flint Hills Regional Council: David Shover, John Armbrust, Cecil Aska, Ben Bennett, Scott Briggs, Honey Grant, Vern Hay, Rich Jankovich, Keith Kahnt, Tim Livsey, Debi Schwerdtfeger, Brande Studer, Jimmy Thatcher and Phil Weishaar.

Present Staff: Gary Stith, Jeff Adams, Shelley Carver

Absent Board Members: Pam Bales, Robert Boyd, Vic Enns, Jon Geitz, Jackie Hartman, Stan Hartwich, John Ray, MarySue Roller

Guests: Rick Chewning, Fort Riley; Kay Hutchinson; Melanie Tuttle, Reese & Novelly; Carl Studer, City of Cottonwood Falls and Bruce McMillan.

1) David Shover called meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Introductions, welcome by Keith Kahnt

2) Minutes – David Shover

Rich Jankovich moved to approve

Vern Hay seconded

Motion Carried

3) Directors' Updates - Gary

- MPO – bike ped counts on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 27 locations 120 volunteers
- New aTa route to HCC in Wamego being planned
- KDOT regional transit meeting held on Mobility Manager
- HUD GTR visit
 - Attended working group meeting and housing meeting
 - Reviewing extension request
 - Jeff will update with feedback next month
- Fee for service activities
 - Waterville historic preservation grant application
 - Abilene Chamber of Commerce – goal setting
 - Council Grove – comprehensive plan
 - JC Chamber strategic plan
 - Riley proposal for CDBG Grant Administration
- TAGS
 - Regionalism in practice
 - Regional asset development
 - Marketing and Branding
 - Transportation

- Workforce
 - Tom Weigand will brief in October
 - Invitation to Waterville for membership? Board informally approved
 - FHMPPO Transportation Plan – open houses September 24 in Junction City and Manhattan
 - FHEDD meeting – Council Grove 9/29 4pm
 - Performance measures data - Jeff
 - Disaster resilience plan added to CEDS - Gary
 - Working with local jurisdictions
 - KDOT local consults
 - Topeka 10/7 Region 1
 - Salina 10/15 Region 2
 - Consider going to meetings if you have transportation projects in your community that you want KDOT to consider for study or engineering within the next five years
 - Frontiers Toolbox
 - Webinar 10/15
 - FlintHillsFrontiers.org – beta
 - Send invitations to Board
 - Link to Fort Riley – Tim
 - HUD grant remains under budget
- 4) Audit Report - Melanie
- Page 2 – opinion on financial statements is clean, all procedures in accordance with accepted accounting practices
 - Financial statements – no issues
 - Federal requirements
 - Letters:
 - 1st letter: Internal controls: no reportable material conditions or weaknesses
 - 2nd letter: compliance: no reportable material conditions or weaknesses
 - if significant deficiencies had been found would be reported here, no issues other than concern over limited staff and **limited segregation of duties**
 - Federal audits of grants will get more stringent, standards increasing
 - Board and management need to anticipate and address risk mitigation
 - 18 points of risk to be considered – Melanie will send Gary the link to website that guides this risk review
 - David suggested that executive board get more involved in oversight of risk management
 - No questions

- Rich Jankovich moved to approve, David Shover seconded, motion carried

5) FHRTA - Gary

- FTA Region 7 meeting September 5 in Kansas City
- Four years to spend Federal funds accumulated before designation
- FHRTA board approved revised documents to reflect Gary's change of title (Deputy Director to Director)
- Expecting letter from KDOT approving designation as direct recipient, FTA can approve within week of the letter.
- Eligible for reimbursement of expenses once designated (retroactive once grant is in place)
- FTA wants transit services to be through competitive process
- Training in November – staff person needs to attend. Gary hopes to hire a transit administrator before then. FTA recommends at least two years experience. KDOT wants to combine position with proposed mobility manager for the region. FHRTA Board authorized hiring on September 17 contingent on FHRC approval to carry the costs for transit administrator prior to grant if Board approves (Salary, computer, benefits, training for two months estimated at \$10K). David Shover said that hire date most likely late November.
- Honey Grant moved to approve expenditure to cover costs up to \$10K, Rich Jankovich seconded
- Vern asked if the FHRTA admin would cover future salary and benefits of employee
 - Gary explained the relationship between FHRTA administrator and planned KDOT mobility manager (KDOT will contribute funding). Will create FTE.
- Motion carried

6) Strategic Plan - Jeff

- Need to implement strategic plan, and diversification after the HUD grant
- 100 Resilient Cities grant application – need to be able to react to these opportunities \$100M for one hundred cities to support resiliency planning (fund a planner)
 - What is our story/vision/mission?
 - Food security and policy; NBAF
 - Regional Resiliency slide
 - Regional approach required to address challenges
 - How do we target new revenue streams?
- Vern asked how it relates to existing EMS plans and services?
 - Plan will work with current EMS managers and bring existing plans together
 - Who will planner work for? Application structure has person working for FHRC (Manhattan and KSU as partners)

- Scott Briggs said that emergency management direction migrating to regional planning and effort, but region needs to be defined – state has defined thus far. Ben concurred that state definition of regional boundaries different than region's. Agencies create their own region's that are inconsistent with each others.
- Tim Livsey suggested that resiliency plan should coordinate with existing efforts, i.e. State, Fort Riley. He offered his staff's expertise to help review and contribute to the plan.
- Scott Briggs said that the point about disasters not confined to jurisdictional boundaries, necessitating a regional approach to support and recovery.
- Consistent with new EDA requirement for CEDS
- Future Strategic Planning Meetings survey
 - Copies provided, electronic version will be sent as well.
 - Requested to return in one week.
- Retreat Feedback
 - Three things to bring people to FH
 - Good jobs, schools, Quality of Life
 - Three things that keep them:
 - Perception, competition, low wages, no jobs
 - Housing is the most critical issue to be addressed in the region
 - Infrastructure development
 - Workforce development
 - Strategic Model
 - Focus on current needs of region
 - Housing surveys going out this month for Frontiers Project Housing Study
- Meetings survey topics
 - Strategic
 - Topic based, target broader audience
 - Networking
 - Continue rotation
 - Same lengths
 - Public Relations
 - Promotion
 - Take away packets
- John Armbrust suggested that instead of looking at brain drain we consider highly educated people a regional product.
 - Need to promote and sell
 - ESU, KSU, K-12, Fort Riley
- Vern Hay brought up Walmart express incursion, targets small towns, runs out small businesses
 - Jeff proposed that assistance with comprehensive planning in cities and counties can assist communities in preventing Walmart et al

- Adaptive Regional Development Model
 - Support small communities
 - Build on success in regional transportation and mobility
- Proposed Strategic Work plan presented:
 - Executive Board will approve work plan in October
 - Bring to vote next meeting

7) Updates

Fort Riley – Tim Livsey

- Aircraft restoration facility up and operational
- Brought residents to region
- Civilian workforce becoming regional
- Leadership change
 - BG Wesley return
 - BG Braves arrive
 - Gen. Funk MOA to expand training to land in Smoky Hills
- Trained 23,000 additional National Guard soldiers
 - Feedback is that National Guard units would prefer to return to Fort Riley
- MOA with DOE staff to train at Fort Riley
- CGSC students at Fort Leavenworth, they also visit Fort Riley. Good PR for installation
- Hiring: moratorium over, and hiring is picking up
- Fort Riley applying for authorization to conduct JLUS, potential for FHRC
 - Fort Riley has advantage of natural barriers to prevent encroachment
 - Local jurisdiction are using planning and zoning to prevent encroachment
- Planning: October 7th in Geary County to discuss noise sensitive areas

John Armbrust – Governor’s Military Council

- Listening Sessions
 - Fort Riley is leading in non-form letter response
- Date is not set, probably December
- Focus on what happens if Army goes below 420K
- DC: forum with 3star and above discussing the “base of the future- force protection”
 - Energy and water security
 - Training ground
 - Privatization of services
 - Security
- Forum on local schools – October 8th
 - Blue Ribbon Schools powerful
 - Army COS very concerned and influenced by quality schools
 - Update local school websites
- AUSA conference
- FHRC Legislative Agenda – Upcoming Session

- Focus on one or two issues
- Hold a lunch for legislators during session

8) Community Updates

- David Shover commended Scott Briggs for hospitality in Emporia
- Vern Hays suggested jurisdictions share equipment, new manufacturing facility in Council Groves – Holden Fence 30K sq ft, 20 employees
- Ben Bennett – green algae impact
- Keith Kahnt – Fitness Center opened, 3rd year of 5 year street project, concern about school funding (should it be a legislative issue for FHRC?)
- Debi Schwerdtfeger – Voices program in Council Grove, building collapse (owner without resources, will cost City over \$100K). Have Brownsfield program test dilapidated buildings structurally before it collapse.
- Brande Studer – Cottonwood Falls in first phase of water project, working with Strong City. Need housing in Chase County, shortage of available developable land.
- Honey Grant – new engraving company, new owner of foreclosed hotel, KDOT is working on exist 299, working on lagoon and lift station, Cannonball Run visited GP. Opening memorial in City Park tonight at 6pm
- Cecil Aska – Jammin in JC, blues and bbq (Sept 26th and 27th), economic outlook improving for JC and investment in community increasing. Bond rating raised a second time.
- Jimmy Thatcher – old pool demolished, new city pool under construction (\$5M), building new street shop with city not tax dollars. Parade September 27th, 100 year tradition, cruise night with classic cars, improvements to airport underway.
- Phil Weishaar – RV Park going in near 70 across from Daras, Dollar General started store next to new bank. Schools building new tennis courts, new family restaurant opening downtown.
- Bruce McMillan – Kansas preservation alliance, Casey Woods gave tour of Emporia. Casey might be a good speaker to talk about Emporia ordinance to deal with negligent absentee owners
- David Shover – Riley - Zombie obstacle run tomorrow. Two street projects – one direct bond project for Broadway to highway. CDBG road improvement project. Leonardville working on blighted property.

9) Next meeting in Woodbine

October

Jackie Hartman and Kent Glassclock to discuss food study at KSU

Tom Weigand to discuss TAG activities

November in Riley, Leonardville and Randolph – Stephanie will discuss TDM

Schedule of 2015 meetings forthcoming

Actions:

Authorized hiring FHRTA Transit Administrator/Mobility
Manager. Expenditures under Pre-award authority capped at \$10K

Keith Kahnt moved to adjourn, Jimmy Thatcher seconded, motion to adjourn
approved 11:46 a.m.