

Heritage Conservation Council
Thursday, January 5, 2012
Douglas County Courthouse, 7:00 – 9 p.m.

Minutes

Council Attendees: Paul Bahnmaier, John Bradley, Ken Grotewiel, Julia Manglitz, Gary Price

Absent: Shelley Hickman Clark, Larry McElwain

Staff: Jeannette Blackmar **Public:** John More, Steve Nowak and Dale Nimz

Meeting Kick-off 7:00 pm

1) Review and approve agenda

- Agenda approved by consensus

2) Review and approve minutes of November 3, 2011 minutes

- Typo on the spelling of Paul Bahnmaier's name mentioned. This has been corrected. Minutes of November 3, 2011 approved by consensus.

Discussion on Grant Program 7:10 pm

3) Discuss possible changes to 2012 grant program

- Ken thanked council members for their hard work throughout the 2011 grant process. It was noted that Commissioner Thellman thought Douglas County could be a model for other counties for natural and cultural heritage conservation and the initiative is getting noticed.
- For FY 2012, \$350,000 has been authorized for heritage conservation in Douglas County.
- The goal tonight is to gather feedback on the 2011 grant process.
 - Ken asked the council members to reflect on their impression of the overall grant process. Challenges mentioned included balancing competing values, providing clear expectations for grant recipients, communicating better with the Commissioners and the public, and the short timeline of the 2011 grant process. In sum, Council members felt the process worked well, but some modifications are necessary to improve the 2012 grant cycle. The public was also invited to comment. Comments included: "felt process was not political;" "application process encouraged us to think through our project"; "fast deadline"; "it is a fair process;" felt blindsided by the emphasis on the importance of getting a property on the State Register; and the educational components of one project may help to promote awareness of how to get properties on the State Register.
 - Council members reflected on the overall grant structure, the categories for funding, the timeframe, the application structure and the evaluation process. Suggested changes falling within each of these categories were presented and briefly discussed. No decisions were made at this point.

- Council members will discuss, and possibly approve, specific changes they would like to see made to the 2012 grant cycle at the February 2 HCC meeting.

Discussion of CLG (Certified Local Government) 8:10 pm

4) Review the steps underway to becoming a CLG

- Ken reported that Shelley is in the process of drafting the ordinance that will create the CLG. She will share this document with us next month. The Council will need to discuss CLG duties. Ken reported the ordinance could potentially be approved by the Park Service late summer/early fall.

Review 2012 Work Plan

5) Review 2012 Work Plan **8:30 p.m.**

- Council members reviewed the 2012 work plan. It was noted to include the deadline date for the Kansas State Historical Society Historic Preservation Fund application.

Report updates 8:45 p.m.

6) Survey RFP Status

- Julia reported the RFP sub-committee received and reviewed four proposals for the natural, cultural and historic resources survey. The sub-committee narrowed these proposals to a short-list of two candidates. A decision is expected to be made by the end of January.

Future Tasks 8:55 pm

7) Visit from Ms. Sarah Plinsky at February HCC meeting to discuss Kansas Open Meeting Law and Kansas Open Records Act

- Jeannette will confirm Sarah is available to attend the February 2 2012 HCC meeting.

8) Next meetings: Thursday, February 2, 2012

- It was suggested that Council members come prepared to the meeting with changes they would like to see made to the grant process.
- Jeannette will draft a “2012 heritage grant guideline” to be reviewed by Council members prior to the February 2 meeting. This guideline will be discussed at the February 2 HCC meeting.

Adjourn 9:15 pm