

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on March 11, 1997 in Room 522-S-of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. J. Peterson - excused  
Rep. Adkins - excused  
Rep. Benlon - excused  
Rep. O'Neal - excused  
Rep. Shriver - excused  
Rep. Presta - excused

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department  
Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to the CD Rom presentation by the Wonderful World of Oz Theme Park. Senator Vidrickson was recognized by Chairperson Allen to introduce Harold B. (Skip) Palmer, II, to give the presentation on the Wonderful World of Oz Theme Park (Attachment 1).

Chairperson Allen informed the committee there would be a meeting tomorrow. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 1997.



# The Management Team

**Robert B. Kory** (45), J.D., is a founder of the Company. He has served as President and CEO since April 1993 and he previously served as Executive Vice President, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of OREI since its formation in August 1991. He has been principally responsible from inception of the Project for assembling and managing the entire Project team, obtaining venture capital financing, creating and managing the passage of economic development legislation, and for defining the Project's strategic direction. For two years prior to commencing the Project, he headed a law practice specializing in entertainment finance. From 1983 through late 1989, he practiced law with Gibon, Dunn & Crutcher, Lawyers, where he developed expertise in corporate entertainment, intellectual property and securities law. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Kory was a writer and published six books. He is a summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale College and a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.

**Harold B. (Skip) Palmer, II** (50), recently joined the Project as Vice President - Attractions and President of The Wonderful World of OZ, Inc., the wholly owned theme park operating subsidiary of the Company. Mr. Palmer has 25 years experience in the themed entertainment industry as an operations executive, including almost ten years with The Walt Disney Company, where he rose to Director (operations) at Disneyland. After leaving Disney at the end of 1979, he spent three years in Australia with the Grundy Organization where he opened the country's first family entertainment center and water park. From 1984 to 1989, he was a principal at Management Resources. From 1990 to the present, he has served as President of The Palmer Company which has focused on operations consulting for theme park developers. His distinguished career includes military service in Vietnam where he rose to the rank of Captain, was awarded the Silver Star, and ended his tour of duty on General Westmoreland's staff in the United States and an official spokesman for the United States Army.



## Trust puts its trust in 'Oz' park

By Kirk Honeycutt

The L. Frank Baum Trust has given its OK to bring Dorothy back to K.C. from OZ.

Robert Baum, managing trustee of the Baum Trust and great-grandson of L. Frank Baum, author of "The Wizard of Oz" and 13 other Oz books, announced Monday that the trust has signed a comprehensive agreement with Landmark Entertainment Group and OZ Resorts & Entertainment Inc. to support development of "The Wonderful World of Oz" theme park in Kansas City, Kan.

Design has been under way since December, when Landmark, a creator of several major theme parks, reached an agreement with Turner Home Entertainment to use images and characters from the 1939 MGM film musical starring Judy Garland, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley and Ray Bolger.

"After reviewing Landmark's imaginative concept design and master plan and OZ Resorts' comprehensive development plans, we could not be more enthusiastic about this project," said Baum.

"This new agreement with the Baum family for us to use all the Oz books will allow us to fully

develop the park as a true representation of the world that L. Frank Baum created," said Landmark CEO Gary Goddard.

Goddard, who founded Landmark in 1980 with Tony Christopher, noted, "We're ex-Disney guys, so the appeal (of this project) is to a theme park in the Disney tradition with rides, shows and attractions that represent the best of the Oz stories."

"The Wonderful World of Oz" will include in its first phase a 50-acre theme park, a hotel and a championship golf course. Robert Kory, one of the principals in OZ Resorts & Entertainment Inc., a privately held Kansas corporation, said the opening for the park is tentatively scheduled for spring 1996, with the hotel probably opening a year earlier.

"This is a destination resort for the Midwest," said Kory. "Sixty-eight million people live within a day's drive of Kansas City."

Future plans call for a 900-acre development with additional hotels, a water park, a recreational vehicle park and an Oz museum to house Oz memorabilia. □

