

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on March 13, 1997 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Wilk - excused
Rep. Larkin - excused
Rep. O'Neal - excused
Rep. Adkins - excused
Rep. Alldritt - excused
Rep. Toelkes - excused
Rep. Shriver - 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: Norine Kruse, Director, Division Travel Tourism & Film Services of KDOCH
Jim Reardon, Director of Division of Facilities Management
Captain Larry Fox, Troop Commander of Capitol Police
Emil Lutz, Director of Legislative Administrative Services
Ramon Powers, Executive Director of State Historical Society

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to Tourism at the Statehouse on Week-ends.

Norine Kruse, Director, Division Travel Tourism & Film Services, KDOCH, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (Attachment 1).

Jim Reardon, Director of Division of Facilities Management, (Attachment 2) was recognized by Chairperson Allen.

Captain Larry Fox, Troop Commander of Capitol Police, recognized by Chairperson Allen, told the committee he was in charge of security for 59 locations in Shawnee County with a staff of 54 persons.

Emil Lutz, Director of Legislative Administrative Services, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (Attachment 3).

Ramon Powers, Executive Director of State Historical Society, was recognized by Chairperson Allen (Attachment 4).

Chairperson Allen concluded the presentation on Tourism at the Statehouse on Week-ends.

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to discussion and possible action on SB166 - rights and duties of innkeepers and guests. She passed out a balloon and KSA 36-501, explaining the definition of hotel at the request of the Kansas Lodging Association. It includes cabin camp, tourist cabin, motel or other lodging unit.

Rep. Presta moved to accept the balloon as amended. Rep. E. Peterson seconded the motion.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE, Room 522-S-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on March 13, 1997.

Rep. Wempe made a substitute motion to adopt the bill with a deletion of Section 5. Rep. Benlon seconded the motion, discussion followed, motion failed.

A motion was made by Rep. Presta to adopt the balloon with the amendments. Rep. E. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rep. Huff made a motion, Rep. Beggs seconded to insert the language (or a representative of the entity responsible for payment of the accommodation) in line 34 after minor and before to. The motion carried. Rep. E. Peterson moved, Rep. Osborne seconded to pass out SB166 as amended. The motion carried.

Chairperson Allen adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

HOUSE TOURISIM COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 13, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Chris Wiehe	myself
Jason Anderson	Bobcat Basketball #50
Ty Wilson	Bobcat Wrestling 189 lbs
Cameron McGown	Bobcat Football #20
Emergie Skinner III	Mr. Hussery's Biology class
Emily Edwards	" "
Jennifer Youngers	
John LeVan	Osborne Wrestling 189 lbs.
Kent Smith	GUEST

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE

"Tourism at the Statehouse on Weekends"

Thursday, March 13, 1997

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & HOUSING

Norine Kruse, Tourism Director

We appreciate the invitation to discuss tourism activities at the State Capitol on the weekends. The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing staffs the information desk from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday morning. We also provide guided tours of the Statehouse on Saturday morning at 9:00 and 11:00.

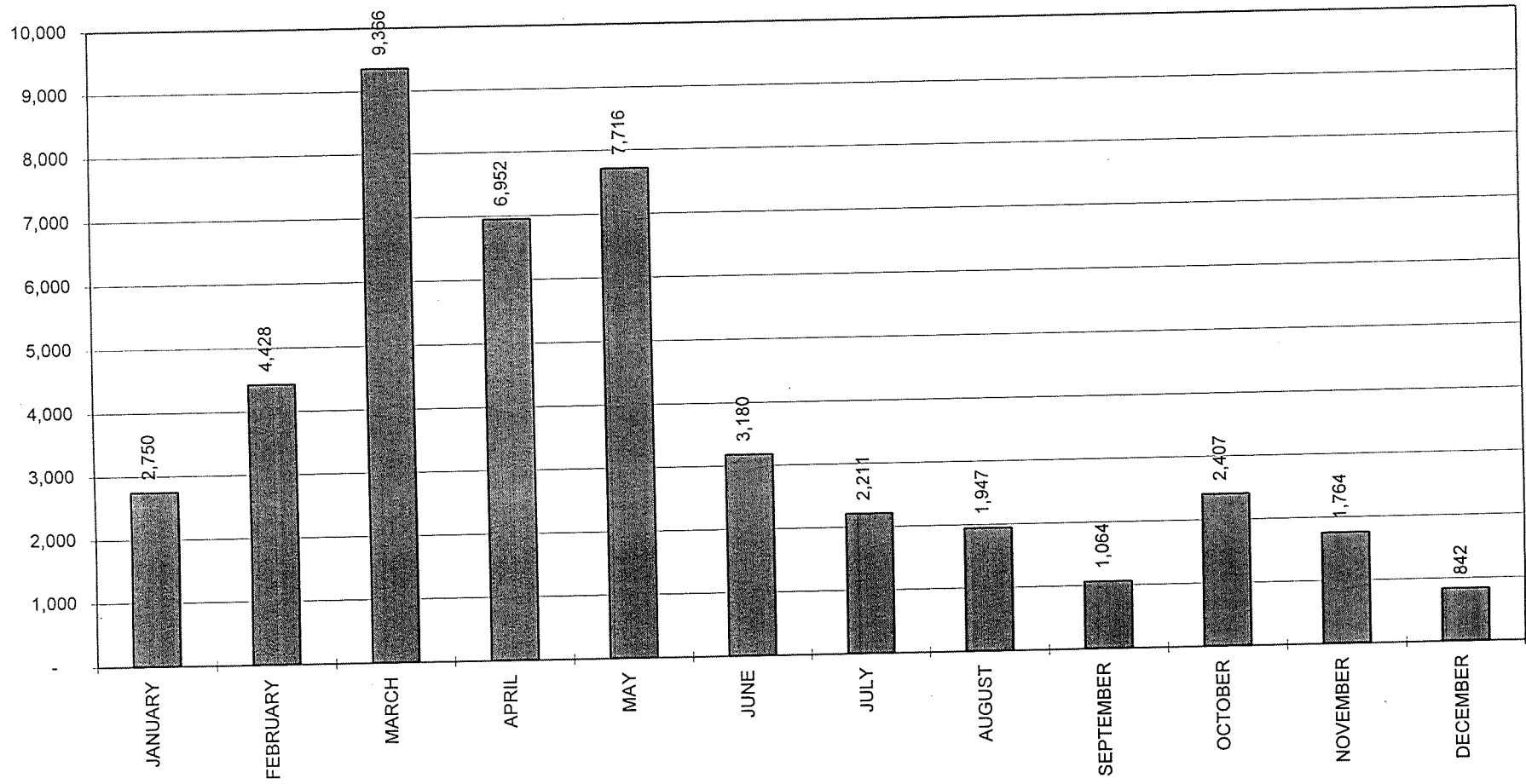
A total of 44,627 people visited the Capitol in 1996. Seventy percent (31,412) of all visitors came in the five month period from January through May. This uneven distribution (see graph of monthly visitation for 1996) is caused by the influx of visitors during the Legislative Session and because most school groups schedule their Statehouse field trips in March, April or May.

In 1996, 33,057 people were given a guided tour of the Capitol. Of these, around 20,000 were schoolchildren. This represents 60 percent of all the people who received a guided tour. During 1996, 1,309 of the 33,057 were on Saturday. This represents four percent of the total number on tour.

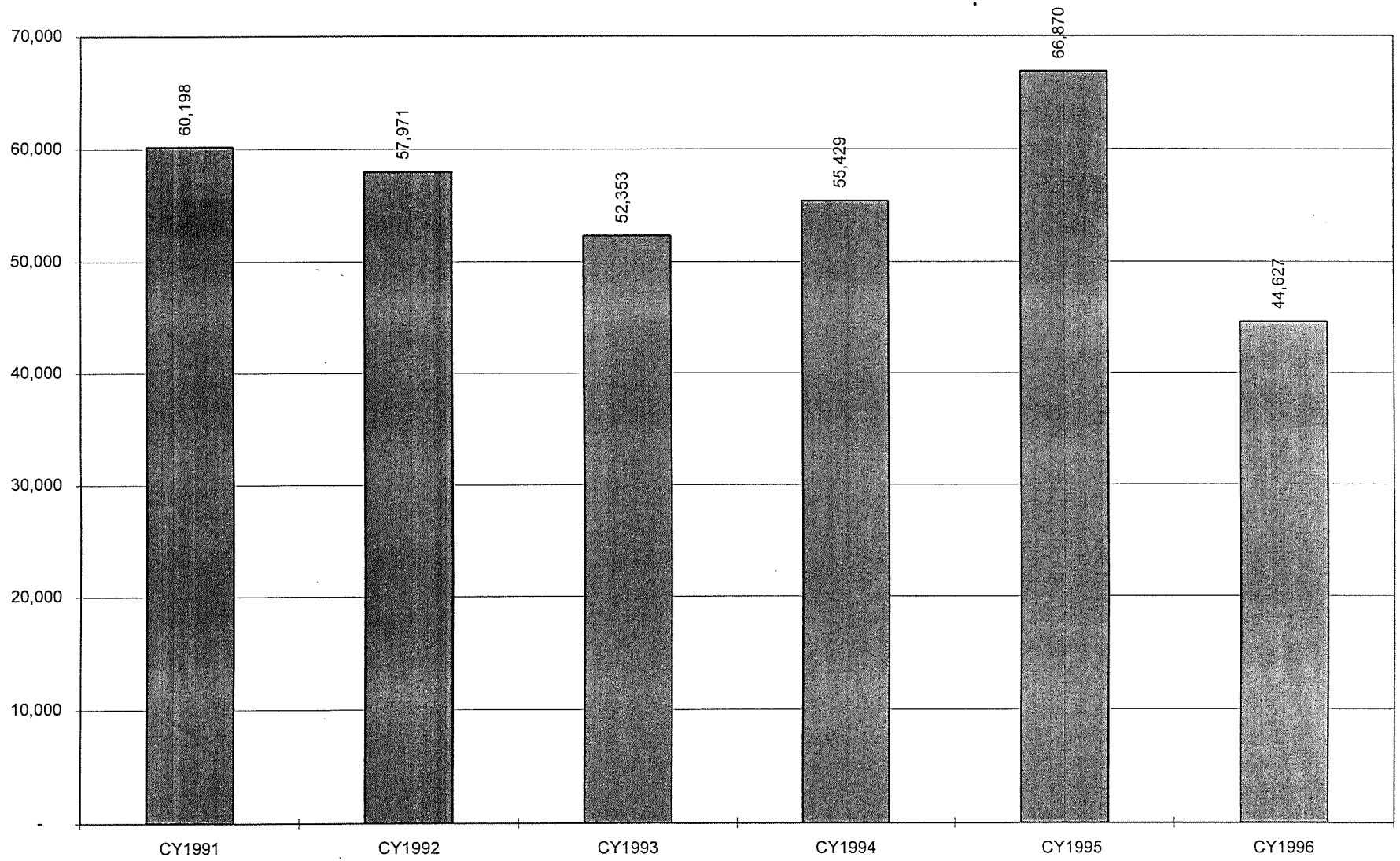
We have recently developed a self-guided tour to the Capitol that can be used when our staff are unavailable to provide a guided tour. (P.S. We are investigating how we can correct our mistake on the second page under "State Flag" where we mention Col. John Engle, when it should be Col. Joe Engle.)

House Tourism
03-13-97
Attachment 1

1996 Visitation at the Capitol Visitor Information Center



Annual Visitation to the Capitol Visitor Information Center




THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

March 13, 1997

Statehouse, Room 522-S

Jim Reardon, Director



Department of Administration
Division of Facilities Management

Representative Barbara Allen, Chair

Subject: Current Operation Hours at Capitol Building

Madam Chairperson; Members of the Committee, thank you for your invitation to appear before the committee in regard to hours of operation at the Capitol Building. Current hours of operation on weekends and weekdays have been from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tour guides are currently conducting tours of the building between the hours of 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Division of Facilities Management (DFM) contracts with Capitol Police for security services throughout the Capitol Complex area and the state facilities located at Forbes Field. During the legislative session, two security guards work in the capitol building. When not in session, one security guard is on duty. Twice daily, the lone security guard is required to make building rounds to check the security of the building and the security of those working within the building. According to Captain Larry Fox, Capitol Police, the guard logs 5 to 7 miles per round. When the guard is making the required rounds on the weekend, there is no one at the security desk.

Due to reduction in manpower allotments, the Capitol Police have had to reduce their presence in the Capitol Complex area by 5 officers. Due to substantial cuts in DFM's budget the division has fewer members of its maintenance staff in the capitol building on weekends (and during the week) than it has had in decades.

With only a skeleton crew at the security desk, and no tour guides available, we find it impossible to continue to provide a safe environment for those working in the building on the weekends. We cannot begin to protect the historic treasures that are on display. Two recent defacings of priceless murals, an incident with purse snatchers, and "building creepers" has led us to conclude that it is dangerous to continue to keep the capitol building open to the public when tour guides are not available. Our recommendation, to the Department of Administration, is to close the building, except to employees, when tour guides are not available to conduct tours.

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House Tourism
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Attachment 2



TESTIMONY

HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE

March 13, 1997

There are items of which I believe the committee should be made aware:

1. The reason the Division of Facilities Management is discussing security for the capital complex is that they were asked by the LCC several years ago to review the security status and needs, then make recommendations.
2. As to closure of the Capitol building on weekends, we have completed an informal survey of the LCC members and without exception all feel that the Capitol should remain open.

While I am here, I would like to point out to the committee that it is not too soon to be planning and making recommendations concerning the use of space that will be made available when the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Administration move out of the Capitol, i.e., establishing a gift shop in the Capitol and relocation of the snack bar. Your recommendations could be very effective.

I would be happy to answer questions.

House Tourism
0313-97
Attachment 3

Remarks of Ramon Powers before the House Tourism Committee, March 13, 1997.

Subject: Preservation of the Statehouse.

Chair Allen and members of the Committee, I am Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Officer.

The role of the Kansas State Historical Society in the preservation of the Kansas Capitol Building derives from the placement of the structure on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. When buildings are placed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, the owner of the structure acknowledges the responsibility to preserve the historic character of the building that is the basis for the designation. If the character of the building is substantially altered or compromised, the building could be delisted.

National Register status does not prevent the destruction of any building. Each year structures that had been placed on the National Register are demolished. The Register designation is merely an acknowledgement of the importance of a particular building to the community, the state, and the nation.

To maintain the historic character of a National or State Register building, it is necessary to preserve the character defining features of that building. In the case of the Capitol Building, the character defining features consist of the exterior features of the structure, the permanent walls, and the halls and rotunda, which are the primary public spaces. The basic guide in determining whether a particular alteration is acceptable is whether it is reversible. If a new feature is installed but can be removed without significantly damaging the character defining features of the building, that feature could be acceptable.

It is important to remember that the Capitol Building was constructed in the last half of the nineteenth century to meet the needs of that period; all the functions of state government were carried out within this structure. Today the day-to-day use of the Capitol has to be managed in a way that preserves the character of the structure. Managing spaces in the Capitol for contemporary use can be difficult. For example, hearing rooms of the size that would be optimal for the legislative function of government in the twenty-first century may be very difficult, if not impossible, to provide in this building.

Over the past four to five years, the Society has worked closely with the Division of Facilities Management and the Legislature's Division of Legislative Services to preserve the Capitol Building and manage its use as a working structure that serves vital governmental purposes in Kansas. We feel comfortable with that arrangement and expect it to continue.

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Attachment 4