

Approved: 2-19-07

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on February 12, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Broderick Henderson- excused
Robert Olson- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Judith Loganbill
B.K. Owens, Capt. (Ret.), Wichita, KS Fire Dept.

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2270 - designating the official state firefighter's museum and the official State firefighter's memorial.

Appearing before the Committee in support of **HB 2270** was Representative Loganbill. (Attachment 1).

Representative Loganbill requested that **HB 2270** be amended by the deletion of lines 15 and 16. She explained that they had been unaware of the existence of another firefighters memorial in Kansas.

B.K. Owens offered testimony in favor of **HB 2270**. (Attachment 2).

The hearing was closed on **HB 2270**.

HB 2274 - Income tax; credits against premium tax paid by insurance companies

A motion was made by Representative Myers to pass **HB 2274** favorably out of Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Swanson and carried on a voice vote.

HB 2270.

The Chair spoke to the Committee of the rule regarding the 24 hour waiting period for discussing a bill after it's introduction. The Revisor explained that with a two-thirds majority vote from the Committee, this rule could be suspended and **HB 2270** worked by the Committee..

A motion was made by Representative Hill and seconded by Representative Huntington that this rule be suspended. The motion passed by 14 votes.

Representative Huntington moved for an amendment to **HB 2270** Section 1, that would add the words "located in Wichita, Kansas" following the word "museum". The motion passed on a voice vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 12, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Representative Hill made the motion that lines 15 and 16 of Section 1 of **HB 2270** be eliminated. The motion was seconded by Representative Craft and passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Representative Hill and seconded by Representative Huntington that **HB 2270** be passed as amended. The motion passed on a voice vote.

HB 2439 - film producers tax credit bill.

Jason Long explained **HB 2439** to the Committee.

Questions and answers followed.

HB 2440 - investors tax credit bill.

Jason Long explained **HB 2440** to the Committee.

Questions and answers followed.

HB 2441 - sales and use tax rebate.

Jason Long explained **HB 2441** to the Committee.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: EDUCATION
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS
SECURITY

RANKING DEMOCRAT: GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND
TECHNOLOGY

February 12, 2007

Chairwoman Gordon, Vice-Chair Huntington, Representative Winn and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 2270.

HB 2270 would designate the Kansas Firefighters Museum located in Wichita, Kansas to be the official state firefighter's museum.

The museum is housed in the historic Engine House Number 6. In 1994 this building was placed on the National and Kansas Registers of Historic Places.

We in Kansas have a proud history with our Kansas firefighting and firefighters. In 1918 Wichita, Kansas became the FIRST all-mechanized fire department in the United States and the second in the world!

The museum is located in an area of south-central Wichita that is undergoing exciting revitalization, and this museum is an important part of that revitalization. For the past three years this area has hosted a Holiday House Tour, and the museum has been a key stop on the tour. It is so exciting to see folks discovering a wonderful bit of Wichita and Kansas history right in their backyard!

The museum serves as a vital place of history. With state designation, it can only grow and add to the living history of Kansas.

Rep. Judith Loganbill

Economic Development & Tourism

Date: 2-12

Attachment # 1

Good afternoon my name is BK Owens I'm a retired Firefighter. I served the city of Wichita for thirty years, retiring at the rank of Captain. I and a few of our dedicated volunteers are here today to support the museum being designated as the Official State Museum.

It was the dream of firefighters, the South Central neighborhood and historical preservationist for over a decade to restore Engine House No.6 and convert it into a fire museum. These groups combined their efforts to make this dream come true. Prior to the completion and establishment of this museum no Firefighters museums were registered in the state of Kansas. The museum is open to the public on a weekly basis and for tours on request. Several thousand visitors have enjoyed the museum since its opening in 2001

Engine House No.6 represents a turn of the century, horse drawn, neighborhood fire station. It is very similar to other Wichita stations of the era, most of which no longer exist, and only this one is still in public hands. It was the last Wichita fire station to use horses and horse drawn equipment. This station remains basically unaltered on its exterior. It is centrally located and adjoins Lincoln Park. A modern, active fire station is across the Bayley Greenway north from the building.

The Kansas Firefighters Museum is a nonprofit, tax exempt, educational museum whose purpose is to preserve the history and heritage of Kansas fire fighting, exhibit firefighting artifacts, teach and promote fire safety and prevention, and to serve as a memorial to Kansas Firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

History of Engine House No.6

On May 19, 1909, J. L. Wokers was given a contract for building Engine House No.6 for \$3,950. It was to be 25 x 50 feet and consist of two stories. The station went on line January 3, 1910 with a combination hose and chemical wagon, a team of horses and four firemen. It was the last fire station in Wichita to use horse drawn equipment and the last of the old classic two story fire station designs common at the turn of the century. The last team of fire horses was removed from service in 1918, and, according to the book Wichita Fire Department 1872-1978, Wichita became the first completely motorized fire department in the United States and the second in the world.

It served as a small neighborhood station until the 1950s, by which time it was outdated. In 1953, old No.6 was no longer needed and went off line. It was not dead, however. It was operated by Civil Preparedness and manned by reserve firefighters who answered calls not only in the city but in the county as well. In 1981, however, it was threatened with demolition. A proposal to tear down the old structure and replace it with a new "active-solar brick and glass" fire station was approved by the neighborhood council and the Park Board, but others objected. A campaign developed to save the old station. According to the Wichita Eagle-Beacon, April 20, 1982, City Manager Gene Denton recommended to the city commission "that the old firehouse be saved for use as a privately-funded firefighters' museum."

Engine House No.6 would not be razed. The threat of demolition by the bulldozer was postponed, but demolition by neglect began its slower yet steady work. In the later part of

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Attachment # 2-1

the 1980s, the Fire Reserve moved to new facilities. Old firehouse furniture was stored in the building along with other miscellaneous items. Old steam pumper No.2 was removed from Cow town and stored in the building, along with a horse drawn ladder and hose wagon. The roof began to leak. Windows fell out when the putty hardened and fell away. Mushrooms grew out of the upstairs floor. Birds nested in the building. Winter frost and ice worked away at the parapet and brickwork. There was an unsuccessful attempt to restore the building in the 1980s. New window frames were custom made and donated. Glass for the windows was donated and cut to size. These items were not installed, but they were stored in the building. Then, in 1993, the Historic Preservation Alliance of Wichita and Sedgwick County formed an organization, the Friends of Engine House No.6, which combined with the WFD Historic Society to begin restoration of the building.

Chronology of the Museum

1993: The Friends of Engine House No.6 and the Wichita Fire Department Historic Society combine for the purpose of establishing a firefighter's museum.

1994: A volunteer group of retired firefighters and neighborhood residents begin restoration work on Engine House No.6

1994: Engine House No.6 is placed on the Kansas and National Registers of Historic Places

1996: Engine House No.6 is leased from the City of Wichita for a term of twenty years.

1998: The museum receives 1998 Heritage Award from the City of Wichita's Historic Preservation Board.

1999: The museum is awarded a Transportation Enhancement (TEA) grant for repointing of brick and construction of period apparatus doors.

2001: Grand opening of the Kansas Firefighters Museum and it is opened one day per week.

2002: The museum receives 2002 Award for Excellence from the Kansas Preservation Alliance

2002: Dedication ceremony for statue, Final Call, and Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial Wall

2003: First annual Firemen's Muster and Antique Fire Truck Parade

Currently the museum houses a 1902 horse drawn, coal fired, steam powered pumper that protected the city of Wichita from 1902 until 1931.

We have the original hose wagon that ran out of old station No.6 when the station went on line in 1910.

An 1880 Howe brand hand pump.

A 1921 American LaFrance fire engine that was donated to the museum by Garden city Kansas and has been totally restored.

A model A and model T Ford fire truck, Leather Fire Buckets, Many hand tools representing the progression of fire fighting skills through the years. Log books picture and artifacts documenting the history of firefighting back to the 1870s. And many other fine pieces of Kansas Firefighting history.

If you have any questions, I or one of the volunteers would be happy to answer them.

Thank you