

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NEW ECONOMY.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mason at 3:30 p.m. on March 20, 2001 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:        Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes  
  Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
  April Holman, Legislative Research Department  
  Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department  
  Rose Marie Glatt, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Proponent:     Ashley Sherard, Intergovernmental Relations Manager Johnson County, KS  
Opponent:     John Ballou, Representative

Written testimony Only: Proponents:

Doug Patterson, Representative  
Blake Schreck, President, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce  
Jon Stewart, Chairman of the Board, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

The Chairman opened the hearing on a proposal from Johnson County that would extend the sunset on the OZ Legislation.

Mr. Nugent explained the bill would be read into the record tomorrow, 3-21. The only change in the bill is an amendment on page 2, that extends the date from July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2002 (Attachment 1). Johnson County has to approve a redevelopment agreement that cannot be accomplished within the time frame. They are requesting an extension of one year. Mr. Nugent clarified the state's role in this endeavor and the Chairman gave a brief history of the OZ project.

Ashley Sherard submitted a request, from Johnson County, that the Legislature extend for one year the statutory time for consideration of the OZ project (Attachment 2). She answered questions relating to a recent meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County.

Representative Kuether distributed copies of a Time line of OZ park events (Attachment 3). She expressed concern over the length of time the Legislature has dealt with this issue and questioned the process of the Johnson County Commissioners. She stated that she was opposed to the bill.

Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of the extension. Representative Kuether suggested that the feasibility study include data on power requirements (utilities) of the project and that data should be gathered and reviewed on the success of Euro Disney.

Additional written testimonies in favor of the amendment were distributed: Doug Patterson (Attachment 4), Blake Schreck (Attachment 5), and Jon Stewart (Attachment 6).

Representative Ballou appeared as an opponent to the amendment (No written testimony). He suggested that private developers, other than OZ, should be given the opportunity to submit proposals for the use of the land designated for the OZ project. Representative Osborne supports his idea.

The Chairman closed the hearing on the extension of the sunset on the Oz project. Additional information on the OZ project was requested by several members.

Discussion followed regarding the financial backing of Solomon, Smith Barney and the time line for the legislative process. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Next meeting on call of the Chairman.