

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on March 6, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Judy Morrison- excused
Representative Broderick Henderson- excused
Representative Margaret Long- excused
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused
Representative Shari Weber- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jamie Corkhill, Social & Rehabilitation Services
Chris Tymeson, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks
Cindy D'Ercole, KS Action for Children
Representative Mike Burgess
Dr. Barbara Burgess
Representative Lana Gordon
Vern Osborne
Richard Forester, President, Topeka Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Others attending:

See attached list.

Motion by Representative Oharah, seconded by Representative Flaharty for approval of the Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on February 20, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **SB 459 - If person owes arrearages on child support, secretary of wildlife and parks not issue license, permit, stamp or tag to person.**

Chairman Myers recognized Jamie Corkhill who presented a proposal regarding recreational licenses and **SB 459**. (Attachment 1) With this program a vendor enters identifying information about a purchaser in a computer. If their name is a match to one in the system they are denied a license until such time as the support debt is paid.

Chairman Myers recognized Chris Tymeson who stated that the Department of Wildlife & Parks is supportive of **SB 456**. He also stated that this bill would preclude the issuance of lifetime licenses but the Department has agreed to a compromise and would restrict lifetime licenses if the bill passes. Chairman Myers asked Chris Tymeson to explain further as to how the system would work. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Myers recognized Cindy D'Ercole who testified that Kansas has not been doing a very good job with enforcing child support and feels **SB 459** as part of a package of bills will help to enforce unpaid support orders which in turn will benefit the children of Kansas. (Attachment 3)

In response to questioning by Representative Kilpatrick, Chris Tymeson stated that this Senate bill is in follow up to statutory authority passed by Congress in 1996 for child support enforcement.

Concerns were brought up about use of social security numbers for the license and also what might the response be to a vendor if someone is turned down for a license. It was also noted that this bill is restricted to child support court cases within the SRS caseload. Both SRS and the State Department of Wildlife & Parks

CONTINUATION SHEET

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are wanting to see this bill pass in order to follow up on the Federal mandates and not risk any loss of Federal aide.

Chairman Myers asked for any opponents to the bill. Seeing none the chairman closed the hearings on **SB 459**.

Chairman Myers opened testimony regarding the renaming of state park #24 in Shawnee County. He recognized Representative Mike Burgess for testimony. Representative Burgess presented a proposal to name state park #24 as the Oregon Trail Kaw River State Park. He shared the historical significance of the name, the educational opportunities, and the importance of using the word river in the name. (Attachment 4)

Representative Burgess then introduced the next conferee, his mother, Dr. Barbara Burgess. She presented history as well as personal knowledge of the Oregon Trail and the attraction it can bring to the area by naming the park Oregon Trail Kaw River. Assets include the area along the river as well as the possibility of hiking trails from the Governor's mansion to the Kansas History Center. (Attachments 5 & 6)

Chairman Myers next recognized Representative Lana Gordon who again stressed the importance of the word "river" in the name of the park to attract visitors to the area. She suggested that other important figures could be noted in the park by use of narratives and monuments. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Myers recognized Verne Osborn who testified to the historical importance of the name and the attraction that would be to people outside of Topeka. While naming the park the Menninger park may have significance for Topekans he did not believe it would hold much significance for people outside the Topeka borders. (Attachment 8)

Chairman Myers recognized Richard Forester who testified but did not present any written testimony. He spoke to the importance of the inclusion of the word river or water to the name of the park. He also believes that the fact of the park having access to water is an attractor for the community and believed the signage should have the words river access on it.

Chris Tymeson spoke to the fact that there could be a boat ramp built as well as protective railroad crossings in the future. A representative of the Oregon Trail Association stated that volunteers would be willing to work on upkeep of the park.

Written testimony only was supplied to the Committee by Jennie Chinn, Executive Director of the Kansas Historical Society. (Attachment 9)

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Mah who expressed concern about not hearing of the interest in naming the park Oregon Trail Kaw River State Park until very recently. Representatives Nancy Kirk and Harold Lane had been working on putting together the name of C.F. Menninger State Park but they were not able to appear to testify at this hearing. Six members of the Shawnee County delegation presented the bill with the name C.F. Menninger State Park and therefore Representative Mah expressed concern over not hearing of this other idea at an earlier date.

Chairman Myers stated that the Committee could hear continued testimony regarding this on Wednesday, March 8 or an amendment could be presented if that is appropriate.

Chairman Myers adjourned the Committee at 4:45.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2006.