

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carol E. Beggs at 3:38 p.m. on January 31, 2001 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Ballou - Excused
Rep. Aday - Excused

Committee staff present: Darrell McNeil - Revisor
Hank Avila - Advisor
Russell Mills - Advisor
Carol Doel - Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Marion Cott - Kansas Humanities Council
Dr. Raymond Powers - Kansas State Historical Society
Bobbie Athon - Kansas State Historical Society
Clint Riley - Wild Life & Parks
Jean Barbee - TIAK

Others attending: See attached List

Presentation by Marion Cott, Executive Director, of the Kansas Humanities Council

The Humanities Council is a non-profit cultural organization that conducts and supports programs that promote understanding of the history and cultural traditions that influence Kansas communities and the lives of people who live there. This Council was formed in 1972 and governed by a 22-member board of directors, five of whom were appointed by the Governor.

KHC is not a state agency, but functions similar to the Kansas Arts Commission and the Kansas State Historical Society.

For the past five years the Humanities Council has been active in promotion of heritage tourism in Kansas. Heritage tourism is described as tourism that provides the traveler opportunities to experience and learn the “authentic story” of a place – its’ history , architecture, art, and its’ living traditions.

Some of the tourism events supported by KHC are Barn Again, Great Plains Chautauqua, 9th Annual Buster Keaton Celebration, and Rendezvous 2000. These have been quite successful. Kansas was one of three states chosen by the Smithsonian Institute to host Barn Again.

Upcoming events include Great Plains Chautauqua, Yesterday’s Tomorrows, and Kansas Chautauqua. The Humanities Council is seeking \$50,000 from the legislature in support of Yesterday’s Tomorrows.

KHC’s total request from the legislature for FY 2002 is \$185,000. (Attachment 1)

Guest speaker Dr. Raymond Powers, Executive Director, of the Kansas State Historical Society

On Monday, January 29, Kansas celebrated its 140th birthday. Fourteen hundred students, families and adults braced icy and snowy road to attend Kansas Day activities.

American use museums to come to know the past and to establish their identity. The past serves as a guide to our present and future. The Society serves the role of preserving and presenting the past in Kansas.

The Society relies on funds from a unique program established by the Legislature . The visitor donation match program provides that for every dollar contributed to the Museum and Sites the State matches up to \$60,000.

Mr. Powers pointed out that pride in a place – Kansas – comes only through understanding its' history and
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culture. (Attachment 2)

Bobbie Athon, also from the Kansas State Historical Society, gave each member of the committee a packet compiled by KSHC with several pamphlets which are being distributed through motel lobby placement service.

Chairman Beggs introduced to the committee a fax received from Mr. Stan Christiansen, of Hudson, Kansas. Mr. Christiansen has been a professional guide. Since he was unable to be present, his fax contained his opposition to **HB 2098**. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Beggs also called to note additional information which was submitted by Mary Lou McPhail in answer to some questions which had been asked of her at the time of her presentation. (Attachment 4)

Mr. Clint Riley, of the Wild Life and Parks Department, was present as a proponent for **HB 2098** to answer any additional questions regarding his presentation on January 29, 2001.

Jean Barbee appeared as an opponent to **HB 2098** stating that the problem was the complexity of the requirements for licensing guides for guide services. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Beggs proposed that we continue the working of the bill on Monday, February 5, 2001 and adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.