

Post Rock Limestone Coalition meeting in Ness City

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 – Historic Ness County Bank Bldg

Submitted by Jean Stramel

The Post Rock Limestone Coalition held it's bi-monthly meeting in Ness City on November 17, 2021 in the beautiful historic Ness City bank building. The Ness City Chamber of Commerce hosted.

Twelve people were in attendance including: board members Brad Penka, President; Jeannie Stramel, Treasurer, Kris Heinze, Charma Craven, Tami McGreevy, Megan Welsh and Rosslyn Schultz, ex officio. Guests and other members included Kelle Goodman, Ellsworth, Jeffrey Boddiger, Lucas, Janet Kuhn, Hays CVB, Jeannie Kline, Ellsworth, Lea Ann Seiler, Jetmore, and Cina Flax, Ness City.

Penka called the meeting to order. Introductions were done around the table.

Minutes were read by Jeannie Stramel, and several corrections noted. Tami motioned to approve minutes, Megan seconded, motion approved.

Jeannie presented the financial report. Since last meeting, two memberships have come in, a grant from Humanities Kansas (\$5100.00) and two bills paid – for the Travel Guide publication (\$7290.00 Gt Bend Tribune, and distribution contract (\$650.00 Central Brochure Distribution). Tami motioned to approve the financial report, Charma seconded, motion approved.

Brad gave his Board Chairman update:

He is giving a presentation to the Russell County Historical Society on Nov 18th. Including pictures of Tony Mahoney's restoration of the Dorrance Bank Building.

SHARP grant was received from Humanities KS. For staffing, must be used by January 31st, 2022. Might be able to extend, since we didn't get the funds until the end of November.

Other grants with Community Foundations have been wrapped up, with final reports submitted. Distribution to funding counties is underway as well as all counties in the Post Rock region. Members will take some to the Belle Plaine and Goodland TIC's.

Post Rock gift items are still needed. Jeff Boddiger, Lucas, has purchased the manufacturing system from Mettlens and will be getting production started soon. He will talk about his efforts later in the meeting. Jeannie shared note cards made by Rita Sharp at Lucas Publishing Company that we could possibly have made for sale. Tami reported on the limestone items that Kirk Robson, Ellsworth makes, including carved bowls that could be sold. A notice was received that a WIX app needed to be renewed, but Brad could not figure out what it was for and let it expire. It is called "123 Forms" and must have been something Andy was using.

Brad would like to start putting events into Google Calendar so everyone can enter their local events and our meetings. Charma suggested putting some calendar reminders as "private" for the monthly Facebook photos counties are supposed to submit.

Kris Heinze volunteered to help update the website.

Committee Reports were made:

Marketing: Kris Heinze – travel guides are printed and being distributed. Everyone agrees how beautiful they are and the project was a huge success. Lucille Heller took some to the KS tourism conference and made some good contacts. She recommends distributing them to the TIC's around the state. The state TIC's require an application, but it is simple and fast turnaround for acceptance.

We would like a listing on the KS Tourism website – we need to submit an application and get approved. Also the KS Travel Guide ad is due soon \$80 – Jeannie moved to place the ad, Megan seconded, motion was approved.

TIAC dues are due – this is a budgeted item. Charma motioned to pay the dues, Tami second, motion approved.

Kris is trying to figure out how to link our Travel guide information into the website.

Discussion about State Fair Booth. Decided best option for now is apply for one of the "State" days and be at the State Travel office booth for one day. It gives a lot of exposure and reduces risk of being pushed off to remote tent sites with unrelated businesses. And it is free. Tami will get info and handle the application.

Brad reported the Traveling Exhibit is ready to print. It will be \$1000 to print all panels using Consolidated Printing at Salina. Not sure how to design the hanging part – 35 linear feet. He will explore options.

Agritourism Committee – no activity – needs to be jumpstarted. Several past members no longer involved. Lots of potential for bicycling races, need to

partner with another group, perhaps Hays cyclists. Need committee members to pursue options, or once new ED is hired, this might move forward.

Education – kits are ready, just need a trunk to house the items. Brad will find something. Terry's Post Rock curriculum needs to be revised before sending out, several issues with photo credits and some test items.

Grants – Kansas has received new funding of \$3.5 million for tourism. Need to tap into this. Need to contact Rod Meyer about the idea of him using the Bunker Hill café building he recently purchased for a Post Rock visitor center.

Membership – currently 25 paid members. Need to work on membership benefits and perks.

People shared other programs they are aware of – Passports – Megan talked about the Wild West Passport in southwest KS and how it works, Janet Kuhn shared the Hays CVB has "Deals on Meals" tiny leaflet passed out by hotel clerks, who then are entered into a weekly drawing. Each local eatery pays \$100 to be included (no national chains). It would be good to list member businesses and government entities on our website.

Unfinished Business: Post Rock gift items

Jeff Boddiger introduced himself and his goals in taking over the "Set in Stone" gift item business. He has an endless supply of raw product from Jon Pancost at Bluestem Quarry & Stone works. Recently moved 3 front-end loads totaling 8000 #. He also has a business de constructing and moving stone buildings. He is developing his business plan for all this.

Have 2 board vacancies – need to reach out to under-covered counties. Hope to have new board members to vote on at January meeting.

Executive Director search – have 2 applications, plus another one interested. Still accepting applications. The search committee needs to meet and do interviews. Tami, Jeannie, Kris are on committee.

Katrina Ringler from KS Historical Society, called in to report on survey activities and status of Thematic listing development.

180 properties were initially submitted by the intern we had several years back. Then the survey needed to develop thematic listing was conducted this past summer by Urbana Consulting who documented 50 properties in Russell, Rush, Lincoln and Mitchell Counties. Looking for 3 properties under "threat" to submit for listing to national, as samples of this thematic type with this new documentation. If we have ideas submit to Katrina. This thematic listing is unusual in that it is based on a "material" (limestone) rather than an

architectural design. Property owners must be willing, and need some history of the property.

Upcoming events – nothing of note.

Meeting dates for 2022 – January 26 (Ellsworth County), March 23, May 25, July 27, Sept. 28 and Nov 30.

Meeting was adjourned about 2:30 and tours of the Bank Bldg were enjoyed.