

Public Meeting  
ARTOTA  
27 April 2024

Members present: Jason Irby, Sasha Bowles, Marlon Mowdy, John McClarty, Carolyn Kent, Shelley Todd, Cynthia Skinner, Rachel Whitaker

Jl called meeting to order 1:10 pm

Reports:

Jl (President and Secretary): Jason travelling trails, most significant area is near Ferry Street because all five tribes crossed here by land and by water, recently followed from Little Rock to Village Creek, standing in middle of river on bridge, 161 toward Jacksonville, 40/161 marker has all three trails (Butterfield, TOT, CW), McArthur Community Park (witness site) has no sign yet, Jacksonville and Little Terry Road, park called heritage park where there was a LR to Memphis Road, went along Butterfield road, described as swampy area, so they may have had to pass around watery areas, Lonoke to Hazen then to Mrs. Black's house, ended up in Stuttgart, picked back up Clarendon to Brinkley, more signs in Brinkley. HWY 306 to Village Creek

2<sup>nd</sup> trip, let the wind blow over the river, went out toward UALR with its Trail of Tears Park and out Military Road to Alexander, lost trail for a little while, picked it up in Arkadelphia Hwy 26 to Centerpoint and 371 (no signage), DeQueen it opened up and sign it was Choctaw and Chickasaw Highway, Large Bronze plaque dedicated to Choctaw and Chickasaw (CK says Choctaw did not go through DeQueen, but instead to Washington and Eagletown, OK), ended up in Eagletown, OK

Jason did take pictures of signs and condition of signs

Cynthia – site in Jacksonville has been obliterated by CW group and does not allow for signage

Spring Minutes approved during Board Meeting

SB (past president): Arkansas has always had a really good map, map has been updated because map was published in 8<sup>th</sup> grade history, *Arkansas Journey* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, it's not a huge section, but better than one paragraph, available in Chapters' archive

Acknowledging Sasha's contributions – establishing Zoom meetings during pandemic, display table, webpage, FB, etc. Thank you, Sasha!

John McClarty – treasurer's report was approved in board meeting, awaiting membership dues check from National, current balance over \$8000

Public Programs:

MM, Bengé Route, librarian at Mountain Home did some significant research on Talbert's Ferry, MM took photos, phase III development at JW House

*Stone Songs on the Trail of Tears* (Waddell and Carr)

Started at Mt Home library, but Bengé went south of here

Denton Ferry Road (RV Park – Talbert's Ferry is north 1 mile)

Closed down fishing guide, private property, historic crossing post-CW

1 mi n Denton Ferry, private property to access Talbert Ferry crossing

Where can signage go?

Recommendations from MM: new signage on Denton Ferry Road; new signage near the RV park; request permission from RV park any interp. signage; all privately owned

CK: some signage that says near here, since on private property

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MM (part 2): JW house historic site updates

1829, oldest public structure in AR, served as Izard Co. territorial courthouse

NA Culture of the White River Valley – Osage, Pawnee and Delaware

From 2022 to document TOT site

New signage went up in 2022, six weeks ago, installed 8 interpretive panels along ADA trail, Liberty,

Arkansas 1838 Benge Route

Witness site for Benge Route and listed on NRHS

8 New interpretive panels along ADA trail

JM: JM stole SB's template

Accomplishments and Projects

Places pages – QR codes on card will take you to places page, put places pages together, easy-t-do, will take you to Arkansas page as well and let you see all of the pages for Arkansas

Rack Cards – Have QR code, key is having all the places so you have more information

Water Route panels – Continue signs and panels on water route

Highway signs – Historic route signs, easyish to get mayor, ARDOT not so much, but now working on county-by-county routes that involved city streets, county roads and state highways

NPS wants to do one fell swoop of ARDOT signs, will only put these signs if the state highway is on the route, won't put it if it's 100 yards away, there are historic routes, but the state sometimes has an auto route on the state highways (yellow and brown signs), maybe move some of the yellow and brown signs to original routes

Santa Fe office of NPS already has a map with accurate routes, just needs to go to ARDOT, NPS will pay for these signs

Interp panels statewide – add and maintain the signs, ongoing forever process, because they fade, lifespan varies depending on when they were placed, cantilever or not, and what they were made of and how much sun exposure, 10-15 years max if exposed to direct sunlight

Improve 5 Tribe Map and create an Interactive Map – Elizabeth Bowen and JM have been working on it, Elizabeth has GIS license and can continue working, AR Post to Mrs. Black's needs to be added, some cartographic work on it, recreate as PDF, easily converted to interactive GIS map online, can link places to it

Improve certified sites – doing more to tell about ARTOTA at sites, ongoing

Brochure – 2-sided, met with Carol Clark, we proposed 7, can put 12 on there

Greet the Remember the Removal Riders, 19 June, lunch for them, 20<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Site along Greenway in Fayetteville, follow Benge Route, but don't go into Cane Hill (autotour route)

CK: See report, what do we want to do next – Randolph County?

Get Old State House more involved, maybe like they did once before?

RW has contacted Daniel Cockrell

Want to get Forest Service more involved with TOT

Vendors and prices for signage

Spring Hill, Spadra and Aux Arc, Aaron Boswell to get new photos, Spadra first post on river, predates Clarksville

Most projects are ongoing

How many rack cards do we want? Accept UALR as printer?

JM: In old minutes, approved money for expenditure, for next meeting confirm

Jl: grant submitted by May to get more funding for more rack cards

Bethany got a second quote for UA Press – slightly higher, but not too big of a difference

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CK will confirm price

Jl: Helena panels, is there a link where people go to look at panels and can it be linked to ARTOTA webpage?

Delta Cultural Center maintains these panels, Dr. Kyle Miller, could like to Delta Cultural Center

Meeting Adjourned 2:55 pm