
P Manhattan/Riley County, Kansas RESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2006

Greetings from the President

Well, it might feel like spring, but I'm thankful it's only the end of January! There is so much for the Preservation Alliance to do over the next several months that we will need all the time we can get to accomplish our goals. At our December board meeting, we decided to send Linda Glasgow, our secretary and Dixie West, past president of the Alliance to meet with the city over the administration of the Union Pacific depot, scheduled for completion in May!! To our delight, their request to be able to use the Depot for our regular monthly meetings was granted without any hesitation on the side of the city. Even better, we will not be required to pay a fee for the space! We are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 10pm indefinitely. Way to go Dixie and Linda!! Also at that meeting, funding for "extras" such as chairs, tables, audiovisual equipment and other items was discussed. There is the possibility of

some grant money out there through a generous bequest and we are working on that now. Also under consideration are landscaping needs and a permanent display of the depot's history. Its nice to have things like this to worry about instead of wondering if the building will even be there next year.

And of course a big accomplishment like the depot restoration deserves a big party! As of now, the formal dedication of the building to the citizens of Manhattan is scheduled for. . .Manhattan Day! That is the first Saturday in June. Our "anonymous donor" will be revealed at that time and we certainly expect a great turnout for the event. But we need to start working with the city and planning now to make it a success.

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Do you know this House? The Board of the Preservation Alliance is trying to learn more about its history. Come to our February meeting and find out why!

REMINDER our next meeting is Thursday February 9th at 7:30pm at the first Congregational Church at the northwest corner of Poyntz and Juliette. We will be putting the finishing touches on our plans for the March meeting that we are hosting jointly with Downtown Manhattan Incorporated. We also have plenty of other agenda items to discuss, so don't miss it (cause then we miss you!)



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And not least of all, we are still planning to do our annual preservation awards for 2006. Given the crush of activities we are expecting this spring, we have tentatively scheduled the awards for September this year. That means you need to be on the lookout for restoration projects throughout the city that are worthy of recognition. There are several categories you can nominate a structure for: whole house restoration, maintenance, commercial restoration, best designed additions and even a general category that might include historic landscapes or gardens, structures like fountains or arches or even bandshells (oops, we did that one last time), but you get the idea. So, when you are driving around and are struck with the beautiful results of someone's labor of love, take a moment to jot down the address and send it to me at shortridgehouse@ksu.edu.

There are so many other things I could talk about, but I'll mention only one more; the proposed recreational/aquatics center. As most already know, city park was originally listed by the consultant as the most desirable location for a 100,000 square foot plus facility, including parking for 300 cars. But the citizens of Manhattan came to life on behalf of their historic city park and let the consultants and the

commissioners know LOUD AND CLEAR that our park was set aside by the city founders in 1855 as a PARK, a respite from the built environment and we want it to remain that way. There are several historic structures within the park itself, the Pioneer Log Cabin museum, the restored fountain, the City Park pool and even Johnny Kaw, like him or not, is almost 50 years old. The city did NOT consult its own historic resources board in looking at city park as a potential site and did not respond to questions about how the proposed center would affect these historic structures and the historic relationship between the city and the park.

In short, the city did not regard the park as a cultural resource with a history. As Bill Murtaugh, the first keeper of the National Register noted, "historic landscape preservation brings into focus the failure of integrating cultural and natural resources. . . a stronger alliance is called for between preservationists and conservationists, and a stronger professional bond is needed between preservationists and landscape architects." To this we can only say, amen! I encourage you to keep up the pressure on our elected officials to find a more suitable site for the center, if it is needed, and follow through on a master plan for city park. We deserve nothing less.

Bonnie



A \$2.3 million streetscape project was the foundation for additional revitalization efforts that have brought \$40 million downtown reinvestment as of 2004.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

The Preservation Alliance is pleased to announce that our March 2nd Meeting will be jointly sponsored with Downtown Manhattan Incorporated, of which Lisa Rockley is the executive director. Before working with DMI, Lisa worked with the Main Street program in Emporia Kansas. In 2005, Emporia recieved national recognition for its work in the Main Street program, administered by National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The director of Emporia's highly visible and successful program is Mary Helmer. She will be coming to Manhattan with some of her staff to talk about what it took (seven years total) to bring a change of heart and spirit to Emporia and what the results are today. We will announce the exact time and place in the newspaper, via e-mail and the electronic list serve, so stay tuned!

For more information on Emporia and the Main street program, visit The National Trust for Historic Preservation web site <http://mainstreet.org/>. You can find Emporia under the link for 'National Main Main Street awards, in the mean time here are a few pictures from thier web site to whet your appetite.....



The historic Granada Theatre was renovated through a \$2.6 million capital campaign, which encouraged new businesses to open along Emporia's commercial district.



Public art, such as this successful mural art project, and the rehabbed theatre posted Emporia as a popular arts and entertainment destination.

Emporia hosts many promotional events to engage the public and to celebrate its historic heritage.



Emporia's revitalization efforts generated 408 renovation and upper-story development projects, including the Temp Building, which now houses an art gallery, wine bar, and upper-story residential lofts.

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MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Regular Meeting: Second Thursday of each month
7:30 pm

Location: First Congregational Church, Juliette and
Poyntz unless noted

President: Bonnie Lynn-Sherow

Vice President: Michael Mecseri

Secretary: Linda Glasgow

Treasurer: Barbara Poresky

Newsletter Editor: Sally Lee

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