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Kettle Creek Battlefield Assoc. continues progress



HOLBROOK

Progress and planning on four fronts were extensively discussed at a recent meeting of Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA) officers and others. Langford Holbrook of the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government, presided for a strategic planning session held in Washington.

Holbrook opened the meeting with a brief report on a dozen telephone interviews with key offices and individuals whose position related to Kettle Creek battle site development. Whereas he found uniform positive support among local individuals, conversations with Athens acquaintances revealed that ignorance of the very significant Revolutionary War battle was not uncommon. Further discussion identified this as a major need for marketing and public relations.

Development funding possibilities was a second major topic for review. Public access and use of the historically important and environmentally rare site were seen as ideal for tourism, economic development and educational interests. Charitable foundations were cited as expecting local and other partnerships, active public programming and hard copy plans for site development. Larry Wilson of [Elberton](#) has approached major foundations with a positive response according to use and partnership support.

A fundraising drive, largely through SAR, DAR, CAR and related organizations for purchase of additional acreage for the site has been very good, yet just a starting point considering the total needed to reach master plan objectives. Additional efforts of the [Washington](#)- Wilkes Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, KCBA and very significant support from the Georgia Society, Sons of the America Revolution, additional acreage may be added to the 12 acres purchased in 1900 by the local DAR chapter and a later addition. The efforts of Walker Chewning, KCBA president and Tom Owen, treasurer, facilitated the decision of GASSAR favoring support of the historic battle site. It is estimated that over \$2 million is needed to secure the site for public use.

“Cooperation in efforts toward site development by the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners has been an essential part of funding efforts. Without this local support, foundations hesitate to seriously consider their support”, said Joe Harris, chairman of the KCBA board of directors. “A formal memorandum of understanding would help this,” said David Chesnut, a charter board member.

Holbrook cited the need for work with the Georgia Department of Economic Development as an essential and willing partner. “Local cooperation between tourism and economic development is a key to economic development throughout the state,” he said, citing this as a high priority of the current administration.

“Strengthening KCBA through appeals to additional statewide organizations would be a great asset in support and development,” said Anne Floyd of the CSRA Regional Commission.

The meeting closed with Holbrook agreeing to provide a planning document and a connection with environmental design specialist who would assist in the next step in park development.

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