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by Bob Fiskel

Federal funds may be sought to help preserve Quindaro ruins



Quindaro Building Ruins
Courtesy Kansas City Kansan

Photograph Caption: Alan Arbogast (left), with Marvin Robinson shows the foundation of one of the houses of old Quindaro to members of the Convention and Visitors Bureau... Bureau staff members and board members toured the Quindaro site after their breakfast meeting today.

Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.

Board members of the Kansas City, Kansas, Convention and Visitors Bureau, who voted last month to support the preservation of the Quindaro ruins, toured the site near 27th and Sewell today and heard that federal funds will be sought to make the area into a tourist attraction.

Dr. Fred Whitehead of the University of Kansas Medical Center, secretary to the Quindaro Town Preservation Society, said the Land and Water Conservation fund of the Department of the Interior totals about \$6 billion. "That blew my mind," said Whitehead. "If we could get just a small amount of that..."

Whitehead said the preservation supporters are working with local representatives, including Sen. Bob Dole, for preservation of the area and for funding.

However, Browning-Ferris Industries plans a landfill at the site and has received city and state approval. It planned to start construction this fall, after spending about \$2 million in preparation. But the city Landmarks Commission has declared the ruins an historic site and the landfill can't be built there unless the city council reverses the commission ruling. The council is to vote on the issue shortly, though no date has been set for a hearing.

The site is near the Missouri River, and the city of Kansas City, Mo., has expressed concern about the water and the Board of Public Utilities opposes the landfill because of water concerns.

However, the former city commission under the old form of city government changed in 1983 to the present city council, approved the site. State health officials approved the design.

Also meeting today with the convention board were Nedra Bonds, KCK, and Susan Hicks, Gladstone, preservation supporters.

They have been opposing the landfill and Ms. Hicks said today if it does go through, the group has been giving serious consideration "to be like the ["Conley sisters."](#)

The Conley sisters opposed intrusion into the Huron Indian Cemetery on Minnesota Avenue and camped at the site with weapons.

The two sisters were among the early historical figures in a slide presentation mainly on the old Quindaro site, shown by Whitehead to board members.

The group then drove to the Quindaro ruins site where it was met by Marvin Robinson, a preservation supporter, and Alan Arbogast of Environmental Systems Analysis INC., Shawnee, a firm hired by Browning-Ferris to do excavations of the area and make an historic report.

Arbogast said he has been working at the site for four years.

Ms. Hicks also reported a Quindaro Festival is being planned for Oct. 1 at Quindaro Park "to recreate the spirit of Quindaro."