



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes *January 24, 2007*

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Leonard Logan at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 24, 2007, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Roll Call

Bob Blackburn called the roll. Members present: Alex Adwan, Jack Baker, Roger Bromert, William Corbett, Thalia Eddleman, LeRoy Fischer, Deena Fisher, Denzil Garrison, Aulena Gibson, James Kemm, Robert Klemme, Marvin Kroeker, Dan Lawrence, Leonard Logan, John Mabrey, Shirley Nero, William Pennington, Ken Rainbolt, Carl Sadler, Sally Soelle, Emmy Stidham, Barbara Thompson, and James Waldo. Members excused: Thomas Brett and Jack Haley. Staff present: Bob Blackburn, Dan Provo, TimZwink, Kathy Dickson, Paul Lambert, Terry Howard, Bill Welge, Bill Moore, Valerie Haynes, Justin Lenhart, and Geneva Little.

Presentation of Employee Service Pins

Bob Blackburn presented 25-year service pins to Simon Stevens and Bill Moore.

Approval of Minutes (October 25, 2006)

William Pennington moved approval of the October 25, 2006, minutes as submitted. Seconded by LeRoy Fischer, approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kemm presented the Treasurer's Report for private funds of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Society has \$2.7 in cash and invested funds. The current rate of interest at the State Treasurer's Office is 4.75 percent.

Executive Director's Report

Summary of Actual Expenses: Bob Blackburn reviewed the actual expenditures of the Agency for the second quarter of FY-07.

Report on upcoming legislative session and agency goals: Bob Blackburn reported that in addition to being funded at last year's level, three simple requests were submitted to the legislature: \$220,000 to complete funding for History Center staff; \$421,000 for the cyclical repair and maintenance budget for museums and sites; and a one-time deposit of \$5,000,000 into the Agency endowment fund. Some committee meetings have been held and went well. Other meetings are expected.

Report on advertising and public relations campaign: Bob Blackburn reported that all budgets in the Agency business plan for advertising and promotion (\$200,000) was moved to cover staff expenses for the centennial year. Cox Cable is running 500 PSAs a month marketing the History Center; two 30-minute TV shows are out and the third has been finished, which will run in February on government and politics to coincide with the Governors' Exhibit. Ads are being run in the Frontier Country Travel Guide, *Oklahoma Today*, and advertisements in *The Oklahoman*

every Friday in the weekend section and Sunday in the Destinations section. A complimentary deal has been worked out with *The Journal Record* for \$10,000 worth of advertising in exchange for photographs for a couple of their projects.

Dr. Blackburn reported that several years ago, Bill Moore was contacted by someone who had a silent movie, *Daughter of Dawn*, that was made in the Wichita Mountains in 1919 and released in 1920. Board member, Aulena Gibson and her husband, were instrumental in securing grants from the McMann Foundation and the Lawton Community Foundation to purchase the film. Actual clips from the movie were shown. The film will be restored, and once a digital version is available, it will premier in Lawton, the History Center, the Art Center in downtown Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. The film is a national treasure and is expected to generate lots of interest.

Consideration of the Oklahoma History Center Fire Alarm Policy: Dan Provo reported that the fire alarm policy was discussed in the OMH committee meeting earlier, and the committee proposed adoption of the policy. The policy would institute a fine for staff members and other individuals working in the building that through inattention or carelessness cause the activation of the fire alarm. Following a discussion regarding a plan to instruct people on how to avoid setting off the fire alarm, Dan Provo explained that before the fire alarm policy is fully implemented, a written plan would become part of the Agency's Policy and Procedures Manual and would be part of on-going training for new staff members. DCS staff in the History Center will be responsible for coordinating procedures with workmen and service personnel. Alex Adwan moved approval of the Fire Alarm Policy as submitted. Seconded by Marvin Kroeker, the motion carried.

Discussion of Grand Jury press coverage: Bob Blackburn reported that the Tenth Multi-county Grand Jury Final Report was filed on November 28, 2006. The grand jury reported that a problem with "ghost employees" at state agencies is ongoing and growing and mentioned the Corrections Department and the Oklahoma Historical Society as examples, without providing specific examples of problems. In fact, the OHS has never received one letter citing a problem. Several newspapers around the State carried the story. For the record, the Oklahoma Historical Society requires every employee to submit a monthly time sheet with approved leave sheets attached. That documentation is reviewed and signed by the employee's supervisor and forwarded to the Human Resources Division where it is checked a final time before being submitted to payroll authorities at the Office of State Finance. The Society has followed this regimen for many, many years, and no discrepancies have ever been found. President Logan suggested the grand jury incident be considered an unfortunate chapter in the history of the OHS and stated that there was no crisis of confidence on the part of Board members in any of the staff.

Presentation on fund-raising and membership drive campaigns: Tim Zwink reported that a grant for \$275,000 from Chesapeake Energy Corporation was approved to support the Governor's Exhibit opening in February; a grant in the amount of \$138,000 from the Pauline Dwyer Macklanburg and Robert A. Macklanburg, Jr., Foundation was approved to support the digitization of photographic collections; two grants, each in the amount of \$2,500, were received from the McMann Foundation and the Lawton Community Foundation. The 1889ers organization donated \$15,000 as a supporting donor for the Family Tree project. The Cox Communications in-kind contribution is valued at \$468,000; *Oklahoma Today* magazine— \$6,000; OPUBCO—\$62,000; and *The Journal Record*—\$10,000. Royalties from the sale of the Oklahoma Past Times calendar generated \$12,000. A challenge grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation was approved for \$500,000, which will be part of the OHC endowment fund. The Family Tree project has generated \$27,000, and those proceeds will be used to raise the match for the challenge grant.

Paul Lambert reported on the membership campaign. The new membership brochures are ready. A large mailing project is being planned. Speeches and presentations to different groups around the state are planned. The goal is to increase membership to 10,000 by November 16, 2007.

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Presentation on Museum exhibits and construction projects: Kathy Dickson reported there were 60 on-going construction and maintenance projects. The Enid project has topped \$6 million in fund raising. Valerie Haynes and Justin Lenhart, both from the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie, reported on the OTM gallery and how they are preparing for the Centennial..

Committee Reports

Publications Committee: Sally Soelle reported that the Encyclopedia Project is drawing to a close. Larry O'Dell will work to aid in the final editing, especially of the online version of the Encyclopedia. Dr. Everett is working to secure funding for printing the Encyclopedia. There was some discussion about developing guidelines for a more thorough evaluation of the articles in *The Chronicles* and the annual awards this spring. All the articles in the four issues will be considered rather than a selection of about ten or twelve. Julie Bennett Jones, an intern from UCO, will be working in Publications for several months.

Membership: Robert Klemme reported that the membership campaign is off to a good start and the goal is to have 10,000 members by November 16, 2007. At this time the membership is 5,000; since November 2006, membership has increased by 70. There are 400 life members, and some of them have requested higher membership levels. Mr. Klemme moved to the accept the following as life members: Delores T. Sumner, Tahlequah; Barbara Van Hanken, Tulsa; Billie Fogarty, Oklahoma City; Ray Dryden, Scranton, PA; and Jo Ellen Hayes, Norman. Seconded by Leroy Fischer, the motion carried. Mr. Klemme referred to a letter featuring the new membership cards and explained that in the future new membership cards will be computer generated and will be plastic.

Black Heritage: Shirley Nero reported that from the Jimmy Stewart Collection, the history surrounding the hiring of the first black firefighters in Oklahoma City was uncovered. Mrs. Stan Evans, the wife of one of the early Black Fire Fighters, was interviewed. Black Fire Fighters from around the nation gathered to pay tribute to the "First 12" at the History Center on January 6, 2007. Products relating to Black History will be actively promoted during Black History Month programs. To kick off the Black History Month Programs, a live broadcast of the *Clara Luper Radio Show* will be broadcast from the History Center at 9 a.m. on February 10. Many other programs are planned as well. The Speaking of the Truth Lecture Series will feature Dr. John Hope Franklin on April 6 and 7 at the History Center.

Research Committee: Bill Pennington stated that Laura Martin reported on public service and volunteers in the Research Division. Volunteers have contributed 2300 hours this quarter, and 4200 research cards have been issued since April 2006. County Day is a project where for one day the Research Division will zero in on one county in the State and bring all the genealogy people in and tell them what is available for that county. The project will take three or four years to complete and will begin with Tulsa County this fall. Bill Moore discussed the *Daughter of Dawn* film. Roger Harris reported on the grant to digitize and process the Hillerman Collection and introduced Rachel Mosman who will process the collection. Mr. Pennington moved to increase the in-state research fee from \$5 to \$10. Seconded by Aulena Gibson, the motion carried.

Development/Endowment Committee: Aulena Gibson reported that when applying for grants, many foundations want to know the level of participation by the Board. The committee discussed developing a policy where board members would be expected to give a monetary donation, small or large, to reach 100 percent participation in financial giving. Ms. Gibson suggested having a special endowment fund for the Board and the monies would go into the Oklahoma City Community Foundation designated as a board project for the endowment fund. Following a discussion, James Waldo moved that a Board Endowment Fund be established and that a letter be sent to Board members stating the amount would be voluntary and tax deductible. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion carried.

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Preservation Committee: Emmy Stidham reported that the Preservation Conference will be held in Guthrie, June 6-8, 2007. Ms. Stidham moved approval of the 16 recommendations for the 2007 Historic Preservation Awards Recipients. Seconded by Ken Rainbolt, the motion carried. Ms. Stidham moved approval of Ponca City as the location of the 2008 Statewide Preservation Conference. Seconded by Denzil Garrison, the motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Ms. Stidham also reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Incumbents up for reelection are: Jack Haley, Bill Pennington, James Kemm, and Marvin Kroeker. James Kemm declined to run. Names of potential candidates may be submitted to Tim Zwink or Emmy Stidham.

Outreach Committee: Bill Corbett reported that the committee discussed the contents of the Enid Collection. Dr. Corbett then moved that the Enid Collection not be open for public use for three years. Seconded by Ken Rainbolt, the motion carried.

Indian Heritage Committee: Jack Baker reported that the Code Talker exhibit opened in November and approximately 700 people attended the opening receptions. There is a possibility that it might become a traveling exhibit. There is a documentary, *Red Horse*, by Red Horse Productions, on the Choctaw code talkers, which was to premier here but was canceled because of the ice storm. It is also going to be shown at the Sundance Film Festival. The Oklahoma Indian Education Task Force has chosen the Oklahoma History Center as a meeting place and are working on curriculum on Native Americans in Oklahoma to be used in the public school system. In October Sequoyah's Cabin was chosen by the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma as an Oklahoma Literary Landmark. About 300 people attended the dedication. The Cherokee Youth Choir performed and only one of the youth had ever been to Sequoyah's Cabin. It was decided that the Cherokee Nation and the Oklahoma Historical Society need to work closely together in promoting the site and making sure Cherokee youth visits these sites. Out of that discussion a Memorandum of Understanding between the Cherokee Nation and the Oklahoma Historical Society was created. After discussion of Paragraph 2, having to do with "indemnification," James Waldo suggested that the entire paragraph be deleted until an opinion from the Attorney General's Office could be obtained. Jack Baker moved approval of the MOU as amended. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion carried.

Oklahoma Museum of History: Marvin Kroeker reported that the list of donations was approved as well as the recommended deaccessions. Transferring the replica of the USS Oklahoma punchbowl to the Friends of the Governor's Mansion was discussed. Dr. Kroeker moved to table the issue until further options could be pursued. Seconded by Denzil Garrison, the motion carried. Dr. Kroeker moved approval on a selective basis as marketing opportunities occur to allow the Oklahoma Museum of History to participate in a coupon or a 20 percent off admission on some promotional type of campaign. Following a discussion, motion was amended to allow 20 percent off regular adult admission only. Seconded by Emmy Stidham, the motion carried.

Dan Provo distributed samples of the invitation for the Governor's Exhibit opening on February 13. In addition to the regular exhibits, 12 additional exhibits are planned. The latter part of March, Oklahoma City Beautiful will present a distinguished service award to the Oklahoma Historical Society. Six picnic tables are installed on the grounds. The facility punch list is ongoing and is down to approximately 60 items. A mechanical shade system will be installed in the atrium and film shading is being considered over the bridge for the Winnie Mae Café as well as the south end of the atrium.

Progress continues on the steamboat project.

New Business

James Waldo reported that the Annual Meeting will be in Oklahoma City on April 12, 13, 14, 2007. The topic is Oklahoma Centennial: A Celebration of Our Heritage. The designated hotel is the Holiday Inn, 6200 N. Robinson Avenue. Thursday night a

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barbeque will be held at the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion. The luncheon on Friday will be at the History Center in the Devon Great Hall. The awards banquet on Friday night will be held at the hotel. The classrooms, the Chesapeake Room, and Nickelodeon Theater will be used for the paper sessions. Bus tours of Oklahoma City and the Guthrie Territorial Museum are planned.

John Mabrey moved to commend the Executive Director and staff for their diligence, dedication, and integrity in the management and operation of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the History Center. Seconded by Denzil Garrison, approval was unanimous.

There being no further business, Marvin Kroeker moved to adjourn. Seconded by LeRoy Fisher, the motion carried.

President Logan declared the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Leonard Logan, President

Bob L. Blackburn, Executive Director

Full text of Volumes 1–40 and tables of contents for Volumes 41–80 of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* are available (free of charge) on-line in a searchable database at <<http://digital.library.okstate.edu>>.