



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting

July 22, 2009

Call to Order

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by the president, James Waldo, at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2009, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, at 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Roll Call

Bob Blackburn called the roll. Members present: Jack Baker, Mary Brett, Roger Bromert, Thalia Eddleman, Deena Fisher, Billie Fogarty, Robert Klemme, Marvin Kroeker, Dan Lawrence, Guy Logsdon, John Mabrey, Samonia Meredith, Shirley Nero, Ken Rainbolt, Emmy Stidham, Lewis Stiles, Barbara Thompson, Jan Vassar, and James Waldo. Members excused: Rex Ball, William Corbett, Betty Crow, Jack Haley, and Leonard Logan. Denzil Garrison joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Staff present: Bob Blackburn, Tim Zwink and division directors.

President Waldo announced that without objection Item 5 would be next in order to accommodate Justice Kauger who administered the oath of office to reappointed board members Ken Rainbolt and Dan Lawrence.

Echoes of Board History

With the revenue shortfall, Bob Blackburn thought the following excerpt from *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, October 1921 could serve as a reminder that we have faced and survived budget cuts before: As a result of budget cuts, the historical Society, had to reduce its working force and cut the modest stipends of employees who were continued in its service and it has also been forced to discontinue the cataloguing of its library and documentary material. The state historical societies of other states which rank with Oklahoma in population averaged twice as many staff employees as the Oklahoma Historical Society had before it was forced to make the reduction already mentioned and none of them have any three percent gross production tax on oil and gas, neither have any of them as generous endowment provisions for public education as that which is possessed by Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Historical Society has been modest in its estimates for the support of the work assigned to it. It has been a party to no combine and no game of grab. Yet, seemingly, for the very reason that it has not engaged in the mad scramble for excessive appropriations, it has not received the consideration to which its functions and its place in the life of the state justly entitle it. That the time has arrived when it should insist upon fairer treatment and freedom from unjust discrimination in the matter of adequate provision for unjust discrimination in the matter of adequate provision for

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Cherokee Nation donated \$50,000 that will bts work, there can be no questions.

Presentation of Employee Service Pins

Employees receiving 30-year service pins were Kathy Dickson, Museums and Sites, and Jeff Briley, Oklahoma Museum of History. Charles Wallis was not present to receive his 35-year service pin.

Approval of Minutes

Jack Baker moved approval of the April 22, 2009, quarterly board minutes. Seconded by Emmy Stidham, approval was unanimous.

Thalia Eddleman moved approval of the April 23, 2009, meeting of the membership minutes. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Terry Howard presented the Treasurer's Report. The OHS currently has \$7.8 million in cash and invested funds. The funds are deposited either at the State Treasurer's Office in a cash management account that includes endowment funds as well as money invested in Solomon Smith Barney on behalf of the White Hair Memorial. The interest rate on the cash management account is currently at 3.42 percent compared to 3.5 percent last quarter.

Executive Director's Report

Summary of Actual Expenditures for FY-09: Bob Blackburn stated that the summary of actual expenditures was not available and explained that the Agency keeps an in-house computer system to track expenditures because the State Core System does not do everything. The in-house system has been down for several weeks due to severe weather in the area. However, the Agency is expected to begin FY-10 with no deficits.

Consideration of Budget Cuts for FY-10

Referring to Document 8b, Dr. Blackburn began by explaining the increased costs of \$333,350. The Agency pays a fee for doing business with other state agencies, and those fees continue to increase; the cost of health insurance and energy costs continue to rise. The Workers' Comp premium increased by \$65,000.00, which is not reflected in the figure above. In addition to these increases, which are all unfunded, the Agency received a 7 percent budget cut. Reduction in total resources is \$1,107,767.

Since cuts this year and the next two years are likely to be permanent, Dr. Blackburn recommended the following: prioritize cuts to retain strength and standards in what we do; balance priorities with political realities both short and long-term; use private donations exclusively for exhibits, collections, and programs.

To offset the reduction, all pass-through projects will be eliminated for a total of \$414,325; the balance of the reduction, \$688,442, will be met through a reduction in payroll and operations. Each division will share proportionally in the cuts. The breakdown per division is as follows: Administration - \$47,500; Museums/Sites - \$268,000; Research - \$143,000; History Center/Museum of History - \$224,442; and Preservation - \$5,500. Dr. Blackburn provided a detailed explanation of the cuts in each division. The

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e used to support the Murrell Home, Sequoyah Home and Fort Gibson. A project with the Secretary of State's Office and the elimination of a warehouse lease will provide some support to the Research Division. The History Center and the Museum of History will benefit by closing on Sundays and opening at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday, reducing the janitorial staff, reducing the security staff and eliminating the DCS fee for maintenance oversight. Preservation will reduce its state cash match for operations. Details for the reduction-in-force are not available at this time. Following a very lengthy discussion, Dan Lawrence moved to approve the recommendations as presented by Dr. Blackburn to offset the FY-10 budget cuts. Seconded by Emmy Stidham, approval was unanimous.

Consideration of budget requests for FY-11

Bob Blackburn stated because budget cuts are expected in FY-11, the following plan based on a 5 percent cut might be considered as a contingency: Vacate one full-time position in Administration; reduce or eliminate operational funding for some museums and sites; vacate two full-time positions and reduce two half-time positions in Research; for the History Center/Museum of History vacate one full-time position, reduce one half-time position, increase admission fees from \$5 to \$7.50, increase net return from store/events; and eliminate state cash match for operations in Preservation. Emmy Stidham moved approval of the plan to manage the expected budget cuts for FY-11 as recommended by Dr. Blackburn. Seconded by Guy Logsdon, the motion carried, with Billie Fogarty abstaining.

Consideration of Goals and Objectives for FY-10

Tim Zwink stated that the goals and objectives were compiled by staff and reviewed and recommended for approval by committees earlier. Lewis Stiles moved to approved the Goals and Objectives for FY-10. Seconded by Guy Logsdon, approval was unanimous.

Consideration of budget allocations for FY-10

Tim Zwink reviewed budget allocations for FY-10. Billie Fogarty moved approval of budget allocations for FY-10 as presented. Second by Jack Baker, approval was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Development/Endowment/Membership. John Mabrey reported that the committee met and approved the goals and objectives. Membership stands at 8,350 and has generated \$295,300. In the coming months, emphasis will be placed on planned giving. Plans are to use the website more effectively to promote membership and fundraising programs.

Preservation. Emmy Stidham reported goals and objectives were discussed. The Historic Preservation Conference at Quartz Mountain was the largest ever with 424 people attending. In November, the National Preservation Institute will hold its national conference in Oklahoma City and SHPO will be a co-sponsor. In May, 2010 the Main Street National Town Meeting will be held in Oklahoma City. The Preservation Conference will be in Okmulgee, June 9-11, 2010.

Museum and Sites. Dan Lawrence reported the committee approved the request to change the closing day at Pioneer Woman Museum from

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Monday to Sunday. Bids have gone out for construction of the Visitors' Center at Fort Towson but will be delayed because the Governor has placed a moratorium on new construction. Renovation at Fort Gibson and restrooms at Fort Washita will continue as funds have already been allocated for these projects. Dan Lawrence moved to declare as surplus 5.6 ac. containing a cemetery on the 101 Ranch site. Seconded by Deena Fisher, approval was unanimous.

Indian Heritage. Jack Baker reported on the Houser sculptures in the museum and on the grounds; Seminole, Kiowa and Cherokee performers are in the Rock and Roll exhibit. Tribal representatives from the Delaware Nation and the Fort Sill Apache visited the Museum of History, and 25-30 Caddo elders spent an entire day looking at artifacts from Spiro Mounds. In the Research Division, there were visitors from Standing Bear Museum in Ponca City, Kialegge Tribal Town, Citizen Potawatomie Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Ottawa Nation, and Miami Nation. Upcoming projects include working with the Caddo Nation for one of the rotating exhibits in the Indian Gallery. Preparation continues for the French and Indian exhibit, which is a Wichita archeological site near Newkirk on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River. Cataloguing continues on the Black Kettle collection and the Bryce and Patti collection.

Collections Committee. Roger Bromert reported three visitors attended the meeting from Roger Mills County Museum, and requested that the artifacts belonging to the Oklahoma Historical Society, which had been on loan to the Black Kettle Museum, be returned to Roger Mills County. Jeff Briley is to furnish an inventory of the artifacts at the next meeting in October. The committee will make a recommendation to the board regarding the matter at that time. A few acquisitions were approved. Some deaccessions, mostly artifacts from the Territorial Museum in Guthrie and an extensive list of books from the Research Division, were approved. These books will be in the October book sale.

Oklahoma Museum of History. Marvin Kroeker reported that Goals and Objectives were discussed along with budget cuts. Marvin Kroeker moved to approve a fee adjustment for classroom rental from \$100 for a full day to \$100 for a half day. Seconded by Guy Logsdon, the motion carried.

Publications. Deena Fisher reported the quarterly report was reviewed as were the Goals and Objectives and the budget for FY-10. *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* should be completed by Christmas.

Black Heritage. Shirley Nero reported several committee meetings have been held in Muskogee because many of the Black towns are located in the area. An up-coming event is the Black Towns Film Festival that will be held in Clearview, Rentiesville, and Boley. Lansing Lee at the Martin Luther King Center plans to write a play depicting some of the prominent individuals in Muskogee. The Center wants to partner with the public school system and use its auditorium and some of the students in the play.

Nominating Committee. Barbara Thompson reported that a different approach had been taken to find potential nominees for the board of directors. A list of names was compiled by several members of the staff, letters

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were mailed to each, and 24 responded. Paul Lambert will be contacting them for more information.

Research. Jack Baker reported that Goals and Objectives were reviewed. Hits on the webpage have increased dramatically, especially since the Dawes Commission Index and the 1901 Kiowa Land Lottery tickets were added. On October 29-30 a two-day event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Indian Archives, which occurred on November 28, 1934, will be held at the History Center with workshops, paper presentations, and a banquet. On October 29th workshops will be held, and on the 30th there will be paper presentations during the day and a banquet in the evening.

Annual Meeting Committee. Ken Rainbolt reported the Annual Meeting will be centered in the Choctaw Complex. Space allocations are being worked out. Consideration is being given to serve some rather unusual local food. Discussions are underway with officials at Southeastern Oklahoma State University to use their Performing Arts Center for a Thursday evening event and perhaps have music and entertainment from people in that part of the state. Paul Andrew Hutton, a historian at New Mexico University, has been contacted as a possible speaker. The theme of the meeting is Old Cultures in a New Land. Dates of the meeting are April 28, 29, 30.

New Business

Paul Lambert reported three new legacy limestone pavers in the entry hall had been inscribed honoring Denzil Garrison, Emmy Stidham, and George Washington Stidham.

Bob Blackburn reported that two new books were available in the Gift Shop: *Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock and Roll Story* compiled by Jeff Moore and Larry O'Dell and *Bounty of Nature: Fur Traders in Oklahoma* by Dr. Lewis Stiles and Bob Burke. Denzil Garrison announced his grandson, David Collins, was sworn in as a cadet at West Point and will be on the football team as a quarterback.

There being no further business, Mary Brett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Barbara Thompson. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

James Waldo, President

Bob L. Blackburn, Executive Director