



# FOR THE RECORD

## Oklahoma Historical Society Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting *January 27, 2010*

### 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, January 27, 2010, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### Roll Call

Bob Blackburn called the roll. Members present: Jack Baker, William Corbett, Betty Crow, Thalia Eddleman, Deena Fisher, Billie Fogarty, Denzil Garrison, Robert Klemme, Marvin Kroeker, Dan Lawrence, John Mabrey, Samonia Meredith, Shirley Nero, Ken Rainbolt, Emmy Stidham, Lewis Stiles, Barbara Thompson, Jan Vassar, and James Waldo. Members excused: Rex Ball, Mary Brett, Jack Haley, and Leonard Logan. Also attending were Bob Blackburn and Tim Zwink along with other OHS staff.

President Waldo took a moment to honor the memory of former board member, Roger Bromert, who passed away earlier this month. He also congratulated Deena Fisher on being named Woodward's Citizen of the Year.

### Echoes of Board History

Bob Blackburn reported from the minutes of July 24, 2002. The Agency experienced budget shortfalls and had four days of furlough in May and June. That year ended with an Agency deficit of \$633,372. The Agency moved forward and submitted the FY-04 budget request, which included \$18 million for the new History Center plus funds for staffing the History Center. Funding for the History Center was received as well as a portion of funding for staffing.

### Approval of Minutes

Jack Baker moved approval of the October 28, 2009, minutes as submitted. Seconded by Denzil Garrison, the minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's Report

William Corbett presented the Treasurer's Report. The Oklahoma Historical Society has \$6 million in cash and invested funds. The interest rate for the State Treasurer's Office Cash Management account is currently 3.21 percent compared to last quarter at 3.32 percent.

### Executive Director's Report

**Summary of Actual Expenditures.** Bob Blackburn stated that the summary is a comparison of actual expenditures for the first two quarters versus the projected budget for FY-10. The personnel column has an imbalance of \$700,000. The reason for the imbalance is that part of the budget cut scenario was to generate additional fees and move money from revolving to cover expenses for personnel. Those adjustments have not yet been made, but will be soon, and the budget will be balanced by the end of the year. With operations, total expenditures reflect bills actually paid or

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about five months of actual expenditures. By the end of June, all bills will be paid and there will be a balance in operations. Remaining expenditures were fairly standard.

**Consideration of additional budget cuts, including the possibility of additional furlough days.** Bob Blackburn reviewed the following from the October meeting: The annual appropriation in FY-09 less bond payments was \$11,069,279; the 7 percent legislative budget cut was \$774,417; increased fees, insurance, retirement and workers comp was \$333,350; a 7.4 percent revenue shortfall (5 percent included bond payments) was \$712,652 for a total reduction of \$1,820,419, with a remaining annual appropriation (less bond payments) of \$9,248,876. The total reduction up to that point was \$1.8 million.

The fee increase has not yet generated \$333,350. Projected cuts in operational expenses was \$732,999, and the Agency has exceeded that total. There have been several voluntary buyouts, but immediate savings are not realized from those. At this time the Agency will have six furlough days, which began January 1 and will end June 30, 2010. The cut for the entire year is 17.5 percent. If the cut remains the same, and the bond funds are exempt from the cut, the Agency will be within \$50,000 of making the budget this year. If the bond funds are included in the cut, \$309,000 in additional savings will have to be moved to the operational side of the budget. With this being a possibility, the only way to make that much of a cash savings during the last two quarters of the year is through furloughs, which would be another twelve days of furlough on top of the six already mentioned. Marvin Kroeker moved to authorize twelve additional days of furlough for staff beginning April 1, 2010, through June 30, 2010, at the discretion of the executive director. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion carried.

**Report on efforts to generate additional revenue or donations at museums and sites.** Kathy Dickson reported all museums and sites were informed that their budgets would be cut for FY-10, and they would have to make up the difference. Each museum and site must submit a business plan to generate funding for FY-10 for a cut of 8.7 percent and a plan for FY-11 to cover the full 17.4 percent cut. Plans are due in February. At that time the plans will be reviewed, modified, if necessary, and implemented as quickly as possible. With the exception of Peter Conser Home, meetings have been held with every single support group in communities where museums and sites are located. All communities have been very supportive and have come up with some very good ideas on ways to generate income. As of January 1, there are twelve museums and sites that are charging admission. At Fort Supply, the Woodward Chamber of Commerce plans to fund Cavalry Days next fall and is providing \$1000 in cash this fiscal year to help offset budget cuts, and through the USDA office, a Title 5 person will fill in as a part time employee. Tom Lucas, with the USDA, is working with us to put together a large AmeriCorps grant to help staff some museums and sites in small communities. The Friends Group at the Pioneer Woman Museum is donating \$1500 each month to make up the difference in the budget cuts for the rest of the year. The Frank Phillips Home did not want to charge admission, so to offset budget cuts, the Friends Group will make up the difference each month. The Cherokee Nation donated funds for the Murrell Home, Ft. Gibson, and Sequoyah's Home to offset budget cuts this year. If museums and sites cannot generate sufficient funds to offset budget cuts for FY-11, other recommendations will be presented.

**Consideration of amendments to the OHS Long-Range Plan.** President Waldo announced that the following report would be for information only. Tim Zwink reported that the Long-Range Plan was reviewed by staff and several amendments were suggested. The conclusion among staff was that the updating of the Long-Range Plan be tabled at this time while a new plan is developed for consideration at the April meeting.

**Consideration of Actual and Necessary Expenses for Jason Harris.** Emmy Stidham moved approval of Actual and Necessary expenses for Jason Harris in the amount of \$62.07 for lunch and dinner with Andy Chaikin, NASA guest

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speaker for the History Center's Back to the Moon educational program. Seconded by Deena Fisher, the motion carried.

**Consideration of Actual and Necessary Expenses for Bob Blackburn.** Billie Fogarty moved approval of Actual and Necessary expenses for Bob Blackburn in the amount of \$30.75 for lunch with Guy Logsdon to discuss the Woody Guthrie collection and exhibit. Seconded by Emmy Stidham, the motion carried.

**Consideration of emergency declaration to repair EXTEK 3441 Silver Film Duplicator machine.** Billie Fogarty moved approval of the emergency declaration to repair the EXTEK 3441 Silver Film Duplicator machine. Bill Welge explained that a standard maintenance contract for the machine is \$7,000 per year, which is too costly. The machine has been in use for seven years and this is the first breakdown. The repair cost is \$3,891.50. Seconded by Jack Baker, the motion carried.

### Committee Reports

President Waldo announced that Item 10-k would be moved to the top of the Committee Reports.

**Preservation:** Emmy Stidham reported that the National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its National Main Street Conference in Oklahoma City this year May 2-5, with the Main Street Bash held at the History Center on May 4. An invitation was received from Guymon Main Street as the site for the 2011 Statewide Preservation Conference and the Committee recommended acceptance of the invitation. Bill Corbett moved to accept the invitation from Guymon Main Street as the site for the Statewide Preservation Conference in 2011. Seconded by Billie Fogarty, the motion passed.

The Committee also recommended acceptance of the twenty-seven nominees submitted for the 2010 Citation of Merit that will be awarded in Okmulgee at the 2010 Statewide Preservation Conference, June 9-11. Lewis Stiles moved to accept the twenty-seven nominees submitted for Citation of Merit for 2010. Seconded by John Mabrey, the motion passed. The new Statewide Preservation Plan is available online or in hard copy through the Preservation Office.

**Museums and Sites:** William Corbett stated the summary of developments and events were in the Quarterly Report. Several employees have taken voluntary buyouts. The Archaeological Conservancy has purchased private land at Fort Gibson that contains the original foundation of the Fort.

**Indian Heritage:** Jack Baker reported the Oklahoma Museum of History opened the "Crossing Bok Chitto" exhibit, which is based on a Choctaw children's book and includes artifacts from the Choctaw Removal in the 1830s. Work continues on bids for an exhibit on "Ferdinandina." Work continues with the Caddo Nation on the Caddo Nation exhibit that opens in November 2010. The Department of Human Services had an event at the History Center for Native American children in foster care with programs on Native Americans. Presentations were made regarding Native American history to the Department of Corrections staff and also to the Stillwater Public Schools. Staff is working on a Pottawatomie documentary, which is based on their removal from Indiana in the 1830s. Staff is working with the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education on their annual conference. Staff is helping the National Indian Education Association, which will meet in Oklahoma City in 2012.

**Collections:** Marvin Kroeker stated the Committee reviewed a list of artifacts for consideration as donations to the OHS, which was approved by the Committee as recommended. The artifact deaccession/disposal list was reviewed, discussed, and approved as recommended. The proposal on out-going loan renewal was discussed and approved as recommended.

**Oklahoma Museum of History:** Marvin Kroeker stated that reports were made by Jeff Moore, Jeff Briley, and Jason Harris on on-going exhibits and forthcoming exhibits. Martha Washington is arriving at the History Center February 5 for a pro-

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gram and everyone is invited. Marvin Kroeker moved to approve the fee schedule for outreach museum programs: \$75 for student outreach programs within the greater OKC area and \$125 for student outreach programs outside the greater OKC area. Seconded by Denzil Garrison, the motion passed.

**Publications:** Deena Fisher reported that a student from UCO will intern through April. *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* is for sale in the Gift Shop at a cost of \$100 plus tax.

**Black Heritage:** Shirley Nero reported the Committee met at the Oklahoma History Center on January 9. Paul Lambert shared ideas regarding OHS membership. The Committee visited with Dan Provo about offering African American history programs and increasing collections related to the African American experience. Marilyn Vann, president of the Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes Association attended, and the Committee agreed to support the idea of developing a program based on the legacy of the Freedmen in Oklahoma as part of the Juneteenth Celebration. Committee member Eugene Jones III facilitated the donation of the American Federation of Musicians charter establishing an African American music union in Oklahoma. Shirley Nero emceed the Victory Abroad and Victory at Home program on Veteran's Day at the History Center. Dr. Vivian Clark Davis donated her father's records from the 597th Artillery Regiment of the 92nd Division. Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves 100 Years Later was celebrated at the Oklahoma History Center and Connors State College. The two programs received extensive coverage and featured two published authors on Bass Reeves: Art Burton and Vaunda Nelson.

**Nominating Committee:** William Corbett reported that the work of the Nominating Committee was finished.

**Research:** Jack Baker reported there was a large increase in the number of hits on the Society's webpage for the Research Division. On October 29 and 30, the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Indian Archives was celebrated, which was well attended. Nineteen historic photos were reproduced for sale. One of the great ones was of Geronimo. Others were from the Dust Bowl, the Land Run and other historic events in Oklahoma. Several employees accepted the voluntary buyout. The list of proposed fee changes and new fees, effective March 1, in the Research Division was reviewed. Jack Baker moved approval of the fee changes and new fees as recommended by the Committee. Seconded by Lewis Stiles, the motion passed.

**Annual Meeting:** Ken Rainbolt reported that he and Paul Lambert met in Durant with Choctaw officials and others and plans are coming together nicely with several interesting programs planned. A very impressive list of nominees for the Hall of Fame has been submitted. The committee decided that there would be four nominees possible this year. So far one nominee, Dr. Lewis Stiles, has accepted.

**Development/Endowment/Membership:** John Mabrey reported that the number of memberships as of May 31, 2009, totaled 8,454. As of December 31, 2009, memberships were down to 8,363. Since new membership categories have been added, income is up from \$293,000 to \$305,000. Space is still available for large donors for additional naming opportunities. Regarding the Annual Giving Campaign, letters were sent to the general membership this year rather than only to the larger donors. A little over \$37,000 has been received in response to that mailing. As of December 31, 2009, 50 percent of the goal for the fiscal year has been reached.

### Proposed Executive Session

Denzil Garrison moved to go into Executive Session under 25 O.S. 2001 § 307(B)(91) to discuss the evaluation committee's evaluation summary of the performance of the executive director. Seconded by several members, the motion passed. Thereafter the executive session took place.

Lewis Stiles moved to return to open session. Seconded by Jack Baker, the motion passed. The meeting resumed in open session.

Marvin Kroeker moved to accept the evaluation as presented by the Evaluation Committee. Seconded by Thalia Eddleman, approval was unanimous.

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### **New Business**

Bob Blackburn reported that Dr. Fischer was doing better after his fall and is now in Methodist Manor in Tulsa.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

James Waldo, President

Bob L. Blackburn, Executive Director

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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>>.