



FOR THE RECORD

Minutes of the OHS Quarterly Board Meeting

February 16, 2000

President Jack Haley called the quarterly meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors to order at 1:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 16, 2000, in the boardroom of the Wiley Post Historical Building.

Bob L. Blackburn called the roll. Attending the meeting were Board members Bill Corbett, Mary Duffe, LeRoy Fischer, Denzil Garrison, Aulena Gibson, Bill Gustafson, Jack Haley, Louise James, Robert Klemme, Marvin Kroeker, Dan Lawrence, Guy Logsdon, Paul Matthews, Ruth Eager Moran, Dee Ann Ray, Emmy S. Stidham, Frances Stiles, Barbara Thompson, Alvin Turner, and Allen Wright, Board member emeritus Lewis Stiles, executive director Bob L. Blackburn, and deputy director Robert Thomas. Absent but excused were Board members Grace Boulton, Eddie Faye Gates, Sue Burt Jones, and Leonard Logan. Others in attendance included Sandra Stratton, Bill Lees, Dan Provo, and Ceyan Hefner.

Supreme Court Justice Joe Watt administered the oath of office to newly appointed Board members Frances Stiles and Bill Gustafson.

The director of Historic Sites, Bill Lees, presented the Volunteer of the Quarter Award to Ceyan Hefner on behalf of the Friends of the Overholser.

The minutes of the October 27, 1999, quarterly Board meeting were approved as presented.

Aulena Gibson, treasurer, reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Dr. Blackburn reviewed the summary of expenditures by fund and division.

Bob Blackburn explained the updates to the Five-Year Plan. The Five-Year Plan was accepted as presented upon motion by Aulena Gibson. Bill Corbett asked if a status report on the Five-Year Plan could be generated. Dr. Blackburn stated that a report would be prepared by next year showing which goals had been accomplished.

Robert Thomas reviewed the ranking of the OHS museums and sites, which showed the standing of each site and museum in relation to one another. Members of the Ranking Committee were Bill Lees, director of the Sites Division, Kathy Dickson, director of the Museums Division, Melvena Heisch, deputy director of the State Preservation Office, Darrell Covington, director of Property Resources, Sandra Stratton, director of Development and Special Projects, and Robert Thomas, deputy director of the OHS. The ranking of museums and sites was accepted as presented upon motion by Guy Logsdon.

Bob L. Blackburn reviewed the upcoming legislative session. He explained the governor had included the \$14 million for the History Center project in his executive request for funding. There is a chance that allocations might be made to individual senators and representatives to be spent in their districts according to the Supreme Court's standards; therefore, a letter requesting bond funds for eligible projects at OHS museums and sites has been mailed to members of the legislature. Regarding general appropriations, \$200,000 for History Center operations, \$50,000 for the Encyclopedia Project, \$75,000 for the northeast regional OHS office in Tulsa, and \$100,000 for the Oklahoma History Education Program has been requested. Dr. Blackburn explained that he would be asking for permission to charge admission at

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the Honey Springs Battlefield Park, which requires approval by the legislature. Dr. Blackburn explained that he was working to get the OHS FTE limit raised from 140 to 153 positions. The request for an office and exhibit in Tulsa involved making a request for \$750,000 in bond money for an exhibit at the Tulsa Historical Society. Since the \$750,000 was the only new request, Dr. Blackburn asked for a vote on it. LeRoy Fischer moved and Emmy Stidham seconded approval of the request for an office and exhibit at the Tulsa Historical Society facility. The motion was approved.

Bob Blackburn presented each Board member with a video of the groundbreaking ceremony for the History Center. He reported that all issues regarding the Stephens property had been settled. All forty properties have been purchased, and to date twenty-six have been demolished. On site preparation, application has been made to the Oklahoma City Planning Commission to vacate the streets of Madison and two blocks of Phillips. The commission without comment approved the application. The next step is approval by the Consent Docket of the Council.

Robert Thomas provided an update on the contract with the architects. He stated that an agreement has been reached regarding professional liability insurance. After negotiations, a contract has been signed with Beck and Associates for the State of Oklahoma for a \$2 million policy for the life of the contract for professional liability insurance. The contract is awaiting Pam Warren's signature.

Sandra Stratton reported that she and Dan Provo had been working with Central Purchasing on the contract for the exhibit designer. Candidates were being interviewed.

Dan Provo reported that the State Museum now has a staff of twelve full-time employees, one position open for a gift shop manager, four temporary employees, a Carl Albert intern, two positions open for 999 temporaries, and one state work incentive person. He also stated the State Museum has moved to 4901 North Lincoln and has been busy establishing offices, setting up collection storage, and moving collections. The Collections Management Software has been implemented, and 51,000 collections records have been transferred to that program. Plans are underway to begin photographing the collections. Progress is being made with the Smithsonian Institution and the Smithsonian Affiliates Program. The Friends Organization for the State Museum had an organizational meeting in February.

Robert Thomas reported on the Red River Journey Site Plan. The landscape architect is thirty days behind schedule. Steps are being taken to get back on schedule. Elevation at the southeast corner of the site is twelve feet higher than the point where the river is to originate. The solution is to use a symbolic river. The building is on schedule with nothing new to report.

Bob L. Blackburn reported that Ackerman-McQueen has proposed a mail survey be sent to the entire OHS membership.

Presenting the Annual Meeting Report, Mary Ann Blochowiak stated that the schedule for the Annual Meeting would appear in the March issue of the *Mistletoe Leaves*. A form listing optional activities for Board members was distributed. The form is to be completed and returned along with a check for the Wednesday night reception by March 16, 2000, to Ms. Blochowiak. Registration forms will be mailed in March to members of the Board.

There was no report for Archives and Manuscripts.

Presenting the Black Heritage Committee Report, Dr. Blackburn reported that the All-Black Towns Exhibit would open on February 25. Bruce Fisher, a specialist in African-American history, has been hired in the Development and Special Projects Division.

Aulena Gibson presented the Budget and Endowment Committee Report. She stated that it was the committee's goal to reach fifty new contacts a year for a planned-giving program. Plans for a fund-raising campaign are underway as well as plans for a celebrity memorabilia auction and event.

Barbara Thompson presented the Education Committee Report. Ms. Thompson reported that the Fort Towson Rendezvous is scheduled for February 24-27; the Last

Surrender, March 16–18; and the Fort Washita Rendezvous, April 1–2. State History Day is scheduled for May 5 and all Board members are invited to volunteer to be a judge. Ms. Thompson stated that a survey is being conducted to determine who is using the Web Site and that information from the survey might be useful to enhance our Web page.

Emmy S. Stidham presented the Preservation Committee Report. The committee has recommended that the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation be given to First Lady Cathy Keating for the preservation work she has done on the Governor's Mansion and for her book on the Governors Mansions throughout the United States and for the National Trust work she has done. There were twenty nominations for the Citation of Merit award. The Twelfth Annual Preservation Conference has been scheduled for May 4-6 at Redlands Community College in El Reno. An invitation to have the Preservation Conference in Enid on May 17–19, 2001, has been received from the town of Enid. Ms. Stidham moved and Guy Logsdon seconded approval of the recommendations for awards and the meeting location for 2001. Motion was approved.

Bill Corbett presented the Historic Sites Committee Report. Dr. Corbett reported that at the Honey Springs Battlefield dirt work for the road and a portion of the bridge have been completed. The road is expected to open in July. The trails have been laid out and graveling is scheduled to begin in March. The Spiro Mounds Visitor's Center has been completed. The contract has been let and work is beginning on the exhibits at Spiro Mounds. The trails at Spiro Mounds have been paved as well.

Lewis Stiles presented the Indian Heritage Committee Report. Dr. Stiles reported that the Museum of the Red River at Idabel has donated a nearly complete set of the magazine, *The American Indian*, published from 1927 to 1931 by Lee Harkins, to the Archives. The project to collect tribal songs is continuing. Phase I of the Cheyenne-Washita Oral History project has been completed with twenty-three interviews. Phase II, an ethnographic study, is being conducted by Sarah Craighead, director of the Battle of the Washita Site at Cheyenne.

Aulena Gibson presented the Library Resources Committee Report. Ms. Gibson reported that there is a very rare collection of Fire Insurance Maps in the closed stacks of the library and that at the last meeting all had agreed that there should be a proposal for a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services for the preservation of the maps. She also stated that Connie Shoemaker is preparing for the silent book auction at the Annual Meeting.

Dee Ann Ray presented the Museums Committee Report. Ms. Ray presented copies of *I'm a 50+ Rotarian from Clinton, Oklahoma, USA*, *The Life of Doane R. Farr* by Dr. Blackburn to Board members. Ms. Ray reported that the Black Kettle Museum is closed and work is underway to make it into an interpretive center. Artifacts in the museum have been transferred to the local museum. At the Kerr Museum, an exhibit of a working lock is being built.

Paul Matthews presented the Membership Committee Report. Mr. Matthews reported that a survey of the OHS membership had been conducted for the purpose of getting opinions about the publications produced by the OHS. The majority of those surveyed read some of *Mistletoe Leaves*, 68 percent read it from cover to cover. Seventy-five percent reported that they read two or more articles in *The Chronicles*. The section on book reviews was read by 33 percent. In conjunction with the membership survey, other historical societies also have been surveyed. Their membership dues were for different categories, and most dues were higher than OHS dues. Mr. Matthews moved, second by Guy Logsdon, to accept George J. Records of Oklahoma City, Micky Marsee of Purcell, Mac Maguire of Oklahoma City, Amanda Burnett of Tahlequah, Clayton Bennett, benefactor, of Oklahoma City, and Stanley Lee of Oklahoma City as OHS life members. Motion was approved. Dan Lawrence stated that the OHS could now sell books on line and people could sign up for membership on line.

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Marvin Kroeker reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. He announced candidates for Board positions open this year. Candidates in District 2 are incumbent William P. Corbett of Tahlequah and Frederick F. Drummond of Pawhuska; candidates for District 4 are Paul A. Fisher of Lawton and Sally Soelle of Lawton; candidates for the two positions at-large are incumbent LeRoy Fischer of Stillwater, incumbent Ruth Eager Moran of Oklahoma City, William D. Pennington of Enid, and John W. Raley, Jr., of Ponca City. Dr. Kroeker thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work and stated that Sue Burt Jones chose not to seek reelection.

Mary Duffe presented the Publications Committee Report. Ms. Duffe stated there were no changes in the Five-Year Plan for Publications. *The Chronicles* was at the printer and would be mailed out later in the week.

Guy Logsdon presented the State Museum Committee Report. He stated that the quarterly report for State Museum, included in the packet, would serve as his report.

Denzil Garrison moved to go into Executive Session under 25 O.S. Supp. 1997, §307(B)(1) for the purpose of discussing the Evaluation Committee's Evaluation Summary of the Performance of the Executive Director. LeRoy Fischer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Denzil Garrison moved to reconvene in Open Session. Marvin Kroeker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Guy Logsdon moved to approve the evaluation. Dan Lawrence seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, President Haley adjourned the meeting at 3:30 P.M.

JACK D. HALEY, PRESIDENT

BOB L. BLACKBURN, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR