



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society
Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2012

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Emmy Stidham at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 24, 2012, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Roll Call

Members present: Sherry Beasley, Mickey Clagg, Bill Corbett, Betty Crow, Frederick Drummond, Cheryl Evans, Deena Fisher, Leonard Logan, Guy Logsdon, Patricia Loughlin, John Mabrey, Sherry Muchmore, Sandra Olson, Martha Pennington, Betty Price, Ken Rainbolt, Emmy Stidham, Lewis Stiles, Barbara Thompson, and James Waldo. Members excused: Jack Baker, Bob Burke, Karen Keith, Martha Lippert, and Shirley Nero. Emeritus Board Members present: Denzil Garrison and Thalia Eddleman.

Swearing In of New Board Members

Mickey Clagg and Sherry G. Muchmore were sworn in as new Board Members by Justice Yvonne Kauger

Following the swearing in of the new members, Bob Blackburn formally welcomed them and introduced them to the rest of the board. Dr. Blackburn introduced Sherry Muchmore as a journalist who writes a weekly column on food for the *Ponca City News*. Mickey Clagg was introduced as a native of Lindsay, Oklahoma, who is a CPA, worked in accounting and investments, and is part of a membership group that is responsible for the Midtown redevelopment in Oklahoma City.

Presentation of Service Pins

Larry Marcy, although not present at the meeting, was congratulated for his twenty-five years of service.

Jim Waldo praised Board Member Emeritus Denzil Garrison for his years of service and presented him with a bound copy of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* that contains the minutes from the two periods of time that Mr. Garrison was president of the OHS Board.

Mr. Garrison said a few words of thanks for his gift and welcomed the new members to the board.

A pin for thirty-five years of service was presented to Bob Blackburn.

Echoes of Board History

Dr. Blackburn explained the origins of Echoes of History as a way to point out the fact that the decisions by this Board impact the OHS not only in the short term but also long term. Dr. Blackburn went back fifty years to the minutes of the quarterly board meeting from October 1962. During that time, there were Board Members who were reaching out regarding the Civil War centennial. One of them was Hiney Bass from Enid, Oklahoma. Mr. Bass was on the Board of Directors at the time and was chairman of the centennial commission.

“Reporting for the Civil War Centennial Commission, Mr. Bass mentioned that he had made a trip to the Honey Springs Battlefield and that he believed people over there are going to do something about preserving the battlefield. He also mentioned that some families were picking up bullets and other items on the battlefield and he felt some attempt should be made to preserve these items. Mr. Mountcastle said he would make an attempt to do this.”

Dr. Blackburn continued by stating that since those days of saying, “Hey, that’s an important site and we should do something,” the OHS has accumulated more than twelve hundred acres of land, had a series of reenactments to draw attention to the Civil War in the territory, are in the process of building a two-million-dollar facility, and invested about two million dollars in a bridge over Elk Creek. People around the world know about the Battle of Honey Springs now. If someone had not stood up in 1962 and said, “Here is an important site, let’s do something about it,” perhaps it would not have been done. It was not inevitable that something would be done; someone had to lead. In another section of the minutes there was a paragraph that dealt with Dr. LeRoy Fischer, another longtime member of this Board.

“The President introduced Dr. LeRoy Fischer who said he had been working on a Civil War map with Miss Wright for about a year and a half. He said it would be a full map showing the land call designating the sites of the Civil War battles and would also give highway route and access to other sites. Dr. Fischer said that since this map would have a value beyond that of the usual highway map, they were hoping to have double the usual quantity printed. He said he was hoping for a wide distribution.”

Dr. Blackburn explained that because of Dr. Fischer’s efforts the state of Oklahoma did issue that map showing the sites of the Civil War, and that year the Oklahoma Highway Department issued their state map with this map on the back. They had good representation because people were willing to do something and volunteer their time. The OHS has come a long way since those days.

Approval of Minutes

Prior to approval of the July 25, 2012, Board minutes, it was pointed out by Bill Corbett that on page seven, third line, Jack Baker’s name was misspelled. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Lewis Stiles. Seconded by Jim Waldo, the motion passed.

Betty Crow moved approval of the April 19, 2012, Annual Meeting of the Membership minutes. Seconded by Lewis Stiles, the motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Leonard Logan reported to the Board that the State Treasurer’s Office had \$1,959,700.45 in cash. The original \$150,000 investment with Salomon Smith Barney is now \$200,800.56. The original \$150,000 investment with Federated is now \$169,320.60. Unlike the other investments, the OHS has been drawing down \$750 per month out of this particular fund and that is why it is not quite as much as the others. There is another \$1,952,835.00 invested in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Endowment Fund. That brings the total of all the cash and investments to \$4,282,656.61 as of September 30, 2012.

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Executive Director's Report

Summary of actual expenditures for FY-13, July 1, 2012 to Sept 30, 2012. Dr. Blackburn detailed a financial summary handout that was given to each Board Member and explained that it was a review of the OHS expenditures for the first three months of the fiscal year that started on July 1, 2012. Dr. Blackburn summarized the expenditures by stating that the OHS is on track financially.

Consideration of new management structure and descriptors. Dr. Blackburn began by explaining the merit system that the state government uses to hire employees. While the Office of Personnel Management system works in terms of hiring, it is difficult to manage employees based on this system. The merit system is designed for keeping the hiring process fair but makes the management of a dynamic management system difficult. Dr. Blackburn proposed to the Board that the OHS adopt a set of descriptors for middle management. The OHS would like to have descriptors that help outline what the abilities and responsibilities of different employees are in the same management grouping. Factors that play a role would be items such as education, number of people supervised, and level of responsibility. Dr. Blackburn formally asked for the Board's consideration of this as a management structure with descriptors.

Jim Waldo moved to approve the new management structure with descriptors. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion passed.

Consideration of proposal from Ancestry.com. Dr. Blackburn began by explaining the background information regarding the proposal from Ancestry.com, stating that the OHS was approached by the company about four months ago in regard to OHS genealogical records. Ancestry.com is the giant of the genealogical industry. If an individual wants to do research on this topic, Ancestry.com is one of the major tools a researcher will use. In essence, Ancestry.com would like to post on its website some of the OHS finding guides and other information that the OHS has. This is a for-profit company and it represents a departure from the typical type of organization with which the OHS would partner. Ancestry.com would put OHS records on their website, but the OHS would still be able to keep them online and free to the public on the agency website. The advantages to this would be that Ancestry.com has a much larger visibility and the agency's records would be reaching a larger number of people. There are opportunities to work with Ancestry.com to get grants for digitization of collections that are not accessible to visitors in their current format.

Dr. Blackburn introduced Laura Martin from the OHS Research Division, who is in negotiations with Ancestry.com, to speak further on the proposal. Ms. Martin began by stating that Ancestry.com has more than 200 million users throughout the world. Ancestry.com is planning for a portal dedicated to American Indian ancestry, which is what initially generated its interest in the OHS records. As a result of negotiations with Ancestry.com, the OHS will get \$40,000 for a new public computer lab in the Research Library. In addition, the company would like to do more than \$100,000 worth of media presentation highlighting the OHS as well as the American Indian records. Ancestry.com will put a link on its website to the OHS website, so any information that people find on Ancestry.com will automatically link back to the OHS. This agreement will allow the agency to generate revenue because people will have to come to the OHS for the actual records. Additionally, Ancestry.com has agreed to waive the subscription fee that the OHS pays for access to its site so long as the partnership between Ancestry.com and the OHS is active.

Guy Logsdon moved to approve the proposal from Ancestry.com. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion passed.

Report on Oklahoma Publishing Company (OPUBCO) Photograph Collection. Dr. Blackburn noted that with this new donation, the OHS photograph collection now numbers more than eight million photographs, but of those all but one million

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are negative-based. Many of the photos are difficult to recognize or are not significant historically. This collection contains 1.4 million images used in OPUBCO newspapers beginning in about 1928 until 1998, and each one is identified with a caption on the back. The OHS started negotiations with OPUBCO in August, and an agreement was recently signed. All 1.4 million photographs are now housed in the Oklahoma History Center. The OHS is about to sign a contract with Oklahoma Corrections Industries to digitize each image, including four hundred characters of metadata for 8.5 cents per image. Within a year, OHS staff expects to have the entire collection digitized and a year following that the collection will be searchable and online.

Report on *Daughter of Dawn* project. Since a story ran about *Daughter of Dawn* in an online version of the United Kingdom's *Daily Mail*, the OHS has been inundated with requests from all over the nation and the world for more information about the movie. The film is not quite ready to be shown on that scale, but the OHS has screened the movie for a few small audiences in the area. The movie was shown at DeadCenter film festival in June. *Daughter of Dawn* was shown at Cameron University in Lawton with more than six hundred in attendance, the majority of whom were Kiowa and Comanche. The morning following the showing, Dr. Blackburn and Jeff Moore visited with Chairman Wallace Coffey of the Comanche Nation. The OHS will be screening the film at its tribal complex in the near future.

The OHS is working with a few different entities to make sure that funding is available to get the film in the best possible format to allow for it to be shown to as many people as possible. The OHS also will be making a behind-the-scenes documentary that will accompany a DVD of the movie when it goes on sale. OHS staff think there is a potential to sell anywhere from ten thousand to fifty thousand DVDs worldwide. There will be a stream of revenue. The OHS entered into an agreement with Oklahoma City University as a partner on this film. University personnel recorded the score using students in their orchestra.

Dr. Blackburn explained further that in addition to the film, the museum staff is working on an exhibit to feature the tipi from OHS collections that is in the film.

Report on state auditor's performance audit of NACEA. Dr. Blackburn briefly discussed the performance audit of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority. He wanted it pointed out that one of the options for the future of the site listed in the audit was that the Oklahoma Historical Society would take over the project. The OHS still remains a supporter of the cultural center and the NACEA. There is no action to be taken at this time from the board; however, Dr. Blackburn wanted to make the board aware of this section of the audit.

Report on OKPOP project. Dr. Blackburn reported on the legislative interim committee meeting that was held in September. The OKPOP had a very good response in the committee meeting. Rex Linn and Jim Halsey gave testimony to the committee on behalf of the OKPOP. Representative David Dank stepped up and said that this project is one of the aces that the state can play and to "color us stupid" if we don't play it.

Project Director Jeff Moore discussed the new public relations strategy for the OKPOP. Through a grant given to the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center by the Kaiser Foundation, the marketing firm Saxum has been hired to work on a public relations campaign for the legislative session.

Dr. Blackburn explained that the OHS has capital bond funding in its base appropriations to pay off the bonds for the History Center. These funds will be available starting in FY 2019. The OHS is now proposing that money would then go to pay off the bond issue for the OKPOP starting in 2019 and continuing for the rest of the bond issue and that the OHS already has a way to pay the bonds the first two years. There would, however, be a three-year gap in funding. The OKPOP Tulsa partners are ready to work toward finding funding for that gap.

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Report on genealogical tourism project at Tourism Department. Dr. Blackburn introduced guests from the Tourism Department: Dick Dutton, travel promotion division director, and Jennifer Calkman, webmaster. Ms. Caulkman took the floor and described the program that the Tourism Department has developed regarding the combination of state tourism with genealogy

Deputy Director's Report

Consideration of Declaration of Emergency for elevator repair at the OHC. Dr. Tim Zwink began by explaining the board's role in a declaration of emergency. The state defines an emergency as a situation when something unexpected or unforeseen happens that can, among other things, endanger the public health or safety or could lead to an economic loss to the state or cause further damage to state property. When an agency declares an emergency, it allows an agency to respond quickly by forgoing the normal state purchasing rules. An emergency can be declared by an agency's governing board giving two-thirds majority approval. Another way an emergency can be declared is by the chief administrative officer of the agency, in this case Bob Blackburn, but this individual must notify the governing board of that agency within ten days of the declaration.

Dan Provo then took over to explain the issues with the elevator. The service elevator that serves the archives, museum store, and basement had a motor overheat that created smoke. Emergency services were called in, but the issue was not a simple solution and a new motor had to be custom configured. The OHC staff does not have a final price on what these repairs will cost but asks the board to consider this emergency declaration as a preemptive measure to make sure that things continue to run smoothly

Guy Logsdon moved to approve the declaration of emergency. Seconded by John Mabrey, the motion passed.

Notification of Declaration of Emergency to repair boilers at the OHC. Dr. Zwink stated to the board that in following declaration of emergency procedures, the board needed to be notified that an emergency declaration was made earlier this month in regard to fixing faulty boilers before the winter months set in.

Report on OHS strategic planning process. Dr. Zwink began by stating that within the next few weeks, OHS division heads would be sitting down to do a retrospective on the previous year's strategic plan, to plan activities, to evaluate how things have gone, and to develop reports back to the board for the January board meeting. Projecting ahead, in January OHS staff will be reviewing the Historic Context, gathering input from staff members, board members, and looking at what might be put into the strategic plan for the next cycle. The mission, vision, and strategic directions of the OHS will all be reviewed. During that quarter, OHS staff will begin to put together the modifications and changes into the document to take effect during the next cycle.

Report on fundraising efforts. Dr. Zwink reminded the board about the recent changes in the OHS Development and Special Projects division, with Paul Lambert retiring to part time and Larry O'Dell taking over leadership of the division. This team works with other divisions in the agency to develop fundraising and grant application strategies that will provide support for projects, exhibits, and programs. In that team, Mr. O'Dell, as a historian, is a great content specialist, working with different divisions, dealing with the context, and looking at what the needs are. However, he also has experience in exhibits and programming. This new division helps with long-range planning while the exhibit teams can continue with their day-to-day work. In addition to Mr. O'Dell, the team consists of Shelly Crynes, who is the coordinator of the agency's grant program and membership office. Ms. Crynes helps to identify grants and to coordinate the application for the administration of the grants. Alongside Ms. Crynes are Paul Lambert, who has stayed on to help with the transition, Bruce Fisher, who is the director of African American projects, and Alma Moore, who maintains contact with members.

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Mr. O'Dell took the floor to explain further the progress of the division. Mr. O'Dell stated that the largest goal of his division this year will be finding and applying for more grants. Mr. O'Dell praised the past grants that the agency has received stating that all divisions and sites are well represented with grant funding. The division is looking forward to working on programming and fundraising for exhibits at the History Center, such as the *Oklahoma @ the Movies* exhibit, the Commerce exhibit, and the Oil and Gas exhibit.

Consideration of changing "Institutional" membership category to "Schools/Libraries" and "Historical Societies/Museums." Dr. Zwink asked for the board's consideration in changing the "institutional" membership category to "schools/libraries" and "historical societies/museums." This is a change that will make the categories more meaningful and specific, will lower the dues, provide more benefits to members, and will hopefully bring in more membership.

Frederick Drummond moved to approve the change from "institutional" to "schools/libraries" and "historical societies/museums." Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion passed.

Consideration of emeritus status for Daniel Lawrence

Jim Waldo took the floor to move that Daniel Lawrence be voted in as an Emeritus Board Member, noting that Mr. Lawrence has served the required number of years to be eligible. This emeritus status would allow him to attend meetings but not vote. Mr. Waldo stated that Mr. Lawrence is very deserving of this emeritus status and moved that it be accepted by the Board. Seconded by Ken Rainbolt, the motion passed.

Mr. Lawrence then took the floor to say a few words of thanks for his new emeritus status. He stated that in his many years of public service in varying capacities, he has never seen an organization as well run as the OHS.

Committee Reports

Indian Heritage Report. No report was made for the Indian Heritage Committee.

Museums and Sites. Bill Corbett reported that during the last quarter the sales at the various sites and museums amounted to more than \$143,000.

Annual Meeting. Deena Fisher substituted for Jack Baker in giving the Annual Meeting report. Dr. Fisher reported that the OHS Annual Meeting will be held April 17, 18, and 19, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Frisco Conference Center in Clinton, Oklahoma. The theme for the Annual Meeting is "Movin' On: Mobility as a Dynamic Force in Oklahoma History" Wednesday, April 17 at 1:30 p.m. will be the OHS quarterly board meeting. For the Annual Meeting luncheon OHS staff is working with David King Dunaway to be the speaker. The Awards Luncheon will be held on April 19, and the selection process for the Historians Hall of Fame is underway.

Development/Endowment/Membership. Mr. Waldo wanted to bring to the Board's attention the growth in membership for the OHS. The stated goal in membership was 9,000 members by June 30 of next year, and the OHS is now at 8,949, which is only fifty-one members short of that goal. When the agency hits 10,000 members the OHS will be the largest state historical society in the United States.

Historic Preservation. Mr. Mabrey wanted to make the Board aware of a few dates for upcoming events. The Statewide Preservation Conference will be held in Perry on June 5-7 2013. The award nominations for the conference are due on December 7 2012. Last year thirty-eight certificates of merit were given out, the highest number to date.

Research. Lewis Stiles presented for the Research Committee stating that a guide is being produced by the Research Division that can be used to access Indian papers. It will be published in 2013. Dr. Stiles asked Bill Welge to tell the board about some images that had been donated to the OHS. Mr. Welge took the floor and explained that

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the agency was contacted by a gentleman from Topeka, Kansas, who had acquired the Lineus Sawyer historic glass plate collection out of Purcell, Indian Territory. There were originally one hundred and twenty-nine plates, but some of them were dispersed to other institutions or private individuals. This gentleman has seventy-two. The committee is looking for an appraiser and will then negotiate to see if the OHS can acquire this collection.

Bill Welge also thanked Dr. Blackburn for his negotiations and work on the OPUBCO Collection being deposited to the OHS.

Publications. Dr. Fisher introduced Elizabeth Bass as the new director of publications for the OHS and the editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Dr. Fisher continued by stating that the summer volume of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* should have been mailed and received by recipients and the fall volume of *The Chronicles* is in production and will go to press on November 1. Production of the monthly *Mistletoe Leaves* remains on schedule. The Publications Department has created a centralized location for news, events, and stories to be featured in OHS publications. As of October, seven hundred and thirty sets of the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* have been sold, forty-eight sets in just this last quarter. This brings the total revenue of sales to \$58,385.08. The break-even point for the project was \$51,000, so the project is now producing a stream of income to keep the *Encyclopedia* up to date.

Black Heritage. Bruce Fisher filled in for Shirley Nero. Mr. Fisher told the Board that the Black Heritage Committee met on the previous Saturday in Chickasha. The meeting took place at Loretta Jackson's restored and historically significant one-room separate school originally located in Verden, Oklahoma. Additionally, members of the Chickasha community have asked the Black Heritage Committee to help with a special African American history project, a living history program called "What does a legend look like?" This project is a dramatic living history portrayal of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher that will hopefully be shown in Chickasha. The second Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame induction was held at the OHC on September 28 with 321 people in attendance. Mr. Fisher showed the board a short clip of an interview with one of this year's inductees, Mr. Sylvester Franklin of Haskell, Oklahoma. Mr. Fisher concluded his report by informing the Board that the family of Clara Luper donated a large number of documents, photos, videos, audio tapes, and daily journals to the OHS.

Oklahoma Museum of History. Ms. Thompson told the board that the Jim Thorpe medals had been returned to the OHS after their loan to the National Museum of the American Indian. A new exhibit about Oklahoma authors will be opening, and is being funded by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. The Weather exhibit is in Norman at the National Weather Center. Gallery 2B will soon see a lot of changes to the Oil and Gas exhibit, the African American exhibit, and the Steamboat *Heroine* exhibit. More beadwork has been added to the Indian gallery. There are a lot of new things to look for in the museum. Regarding visitors services, Ms. Thompson told the board that tomorrow evening will be the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. The museum store is getting a transformation to become more like a museum store rather than a gift shop. Oklahoma artists and Oklahoma food will be featured in the store. The Education Department hosted Septemberfest with great success. There have been quite a few repairs, such as the roof and flooring, taking place at the OHC, which is now seven years old. Lastly, the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center have a lot going on. Because of this, they will be adding two subsidiary bank accounts, one with Kirkpatrick Bank and the other with Coppermark. The friends group has new grants that are associated with *Daughter of Dawn* and also the documentary of Edith Kinney Gaylord.

Collections. No report was given by the Collections Committee.

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New Committee Appointments

New committee appointments were made as follows by President Stidham:

Executive Committee: Ken Rainbolt

Museums and Sites: Dan Lawrence (ex officio)

Evaluation Committee: Jim Waldo (chair), Bill Corbett, Leonard Logan

Research: Sherry Muchmore

Indian Heritage: Sherry Muchmore

Collections: Mickey Clagg

Oklahoma Museum of History: Mickey Clagg

Membership: Dan Lawrence (ex officio)

Bill Corbett moved to accept these appointments. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion passed.

New Business

Denzil Garrison addressed the board by stating how great an organization he believed the OHS to be. He believes that the basis of this greatness is drawn from the fact that the Board operates in a nonpolitical manner. Mr. Garrison continued by stating that this Board must never be a political board. Board members cannot and should not operate from a partisan viewpoint. Instead they should make decisions based on what is best for the State of Oklahoma and the documenting of the history of this state.

Adjournment

The board meeting was adjourned by President Stidham at 4:30 p.m.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

EMMY S. STIDHAM, President

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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 online in a searchable database at <http://digital.library.okstate.edu>.