



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting

January 25, 2012

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by the president, Emmy Stidham, at 1:30 p.m., January 25, 2012, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Roll Call

Members present: Jack Baker, Sherry L. Beasley, William Corbett, Betty Crow, Deena Fisher, Denzil Garrison, Karen Keith, Robert Klemme, Dan Lawrence, Martha A. Lippert, Leonard Logan, Guy Logsdon, Patricia Loughlin, John Mabrey, Samonia Byford, Shirley Nero, Martha Pennington, Betty Price, Ken Rainbolt, Roger Rinehart, Emmy Stidham, Lewis Stiles, Barbara Thompson, and James Waldo. Members excused: Bob Burke. Members of the OHS staff also attended.

Swearing In of New Board Members

Justice Yvonne Kauger administered the oath of office to new OHS board members Martha A. Lippert and Sherry L. Beasley.

Presentation of Employee Service Pins

Bob Blackburn presented a twenty-five-year service pin to Pam McCarty, administrative programs officer in the State Historic Preservation Office, and a thirty-year service pin to Simon Stevens, accountant in the Finance Division. Bob Rea, military sites supervisor, was not present.

Echoes of Board History

Bob Blackburn stated that since architectural plans for the OKPOP Museum in Tulsa were on the agenda, he selected from the minutes a passage about a meeting between the Oklahoma Historical Society Building Committee and the State Board of Affairs in 1929:

“Meeting was held April 25, 1929, in the office of the Chairman of the State Board of Public Affairs, with all members of the Building Committee of the Historical Society present, to wit: Judge R. L. Williams, chairman; Judge Thomas H. Doyle, vice chairman; William S. Key, Jasper Sipes, Phil D. Brewer, W. A. Ledbetter, D. W. Peery, and the State Board of Public Affairs consisting of C. E. Dudley, chairman; G. C. Woolard, and R.O. Coppock.

Judge R. L. Williams set forth the object of the meeting, which was to consider plans for the erection of the new building for the Historical Society, and the following agreement was entered into:

That three-fourths of one percent of the contract price for the building is to be reserved out of the bulk of the five percent for the architects' fees to be disbursed by the

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Building Committee of the Historical Society to pay the superintendent, to supervise the construction of the new building, on vouchers approved by the committee and signed by the State Board of Public Affairs, and it was further agreed that the Board of Public Affairs are to incorporate into their contract with the architects that they are not to receive any portion of the \$500,000 unless their plans are finally approved by the Board of the Historical Society.

Judge R. L. Williams suggested that members of the building committee be allowed only railroad and Pullman fare on a tour of inspection to visit other memorial buildings and secure information as to buildings, etc.”

The committee traveled by Pullman car through the Midwest looking at other historical society buildings. They ended up in Minnesota where they saw a building they liked. The old Minnesota Historical Building is identical to the old Oklahoma Historical Building, but 20 percent smaller. The state sold land in the Cherokee Outlet to finance the new building.

“Judge Doyle moved that the building committee also be allowed hotel room expenses on the trip and Edward P. Boyd, the superintendent, be allowed his entire expenses for this trip. The motion made by Judge Doyle was seconded and carried.”

Approval of Minutes (October 26, 2011)

Roger Rinehart moved approval of the minutes. Seconded by Jack Baker, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Leonard Logan reviewed the Treasurer’s Report. The OHS has total cash and investments of \$4,511,442.44. Of that total \$2,137,069 is cash in the State Treasurer’s Office. Burkhart Trustees received a settlement in litigation of \$359,000. Investments with Salomon Smith Barney are \$200,784.70; Federated are \$165,672.07; and OCCF Endowment Funds are \$2,007,915.77.

Executive Director’s Report

Summary of actual expenditures for FY-12. Bob Blackburn reviewed actual expenditures and the balance of the budget for the second quarter of FY-12.

Report on legislation for FY-13. Bob Blackburn stated the FY-13 budget request was submitted on October 1 for legislative action. The request included three primary issues: appropriation, which remains the same; a grants-in-aid program that will provide a dedicated stream of funding for local historical societies, museums, and county courthouses; and a bond issue for the OKPOP Museum in Tulsa. Several meetings have been held dealing with these issues. Representative Ron Peters filed a bill on the house side for a bond issue and Senator Brian Crain did the same on the senate side. Interaction with members of the legislature and other interested parties will continue as support is sought for these issues.

Review of important agency projects. Bob Blackburn reported that Melvena Heisch came up with an idea to make the resources in the preservation office more accessible to a greater number of people by putting Route 66 survey information into a format that will work on cell phones with photographs and links to websites. The software for this project would cost \$3,500.

The Research Division received a \$600,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to digitize and make searchable the OHS newspaper collection, which consists of 33 million pages. In addition to the NEH grant, a three-year, \$300,000 grant was received from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation to digitize 6 to 7 million pages from 1844 to 1923. Chad Williams worked out an agreement with

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the University of North Texas to help with this project, and by April, the first group of newspapers through these grants will be posted on the OHS website.

At the History Center, Jason Harris has been working on a partnership with Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg. Out of that partnership, without any cash from the OHS, trunks on the colonial experience are being developed and workshops for educators around the state are being conducted. State Museum staff has gone to both Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg for staff development and in return, anytime their resource people are in Oklahoma, they make them available to the OHS.

Consideration of predesign findings by CraftonTull Architects for the OK-POP Museum. Bob Blackburn reviewed the predesign documents prepared by Crafton Tull on the proposed OKPOP Museum in Tulsa. Leonard Logan moved to approve the predesign documents as presented. Seconded by Dan Lawrence, the motion passed.

Deputy Director's Report

Consideration of changes to the "Strategic Directions" within the OHS planning process. Tim Zwink stated that the executive staff met to evaluate the OHS vision, mission, and strategic directions. Dr. Zwink reviewed the suggested changes and an overview of each strategic direction. Barbara Thompson moved to approve the changes. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion passed.

The order of business was changed as President Stidham moved to agenda item 11d and called on John Mabrey to report on behalf of the Preservation Committee. The quarterly report was reviewed. Mr. Mabrey moved approval of Perry, Oklahoma, as the host city for the 2013 Preservation Conference. Seconded by Roger Rinehart, the motion passed. Thirty-eight projects were submitted for approval by the staff for the 2012 Citations of Merit. Mr. Mabrey moved acceptance of the recipients of the 2012 Citations of Merit as recommended by the staff. Seconded by Karen Keith, the motion passed.

Consideration of New Committee Assignments

Returning to the original order of business, President Stidham appointed Sherry Beasley to the Oklahoma Museum of History Committee and to the Publications Committee. Martha Lippert was appointed to the Oklahoma Museum of History Committee and the Indian Heritage Committee. James Waldo moved to approve the committee appointments. Seconded by Jack Baker, the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Black Heritage. Shirley Nero distributed the Black Heritage Committee report. The committee met on January 21 at the Oklahoma History Center. Bruce Fisher reviewed plans for the February 4, 2012, Black History Month program at the Oklahoma History Center. Other activities are listed in the committee report.

Publications. Deena Fisher reported the winter volume of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* is in production and *Mistletoe Leaves* is on schedule. Six hundred and eighty-two sets of the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* have been sold. Sales are at \$54,465. Evaluations have begun for the Muriel Wright Award.

Research. Jack Baker reported the Research Division volunteers logged 2,448.24 hours during the quarter. The division Goals and Strategic Plan are to collect more material on green energy. The storage capacity in the Research Division is 99 percent full and efforts are underway to locate an offsite storage facility. By April 12, 30 percent, or about 1.5 million searchable images, of the early newspapers will go online. The Research Division continues to work in partnership with the Genealogical Society of Utah in microfilming county records around the state. The Friends of the Oklahoma Historical Society Archives Genealogical Conference will be in Dewey May 4 to 6, 2012. The Woody Crumbo birthday celebration will be January 31 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the History Center.

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Development/Endowment/Membership. James Waldo referred to the quarterly report and three items in particular: the federal and Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) grants of \$1,247,000; the Bank of Oklahoma (BOK) pledge for donation of land valued at \$4 million; and a \$1 million pledge from Kaiser Foundation. Both the BOK and Kaiser Foundation pledges are contingent on receiving a bond issue for the OKPOP Museum in Tulsa. The division is around \$15,000 short of the yearly goal. Work continues to increase membership. Board members were encouraged to participate in History Day on May 2 and 3 as a source for increasing membership. Paul Lambert announced that the planned giving website was online and provided a preview.

Nominating Committee. Deena Fisher announced candidates for the 2012 OHS Board of Directors election: District Two—William Corbett, Tahlequah; Jimmie L. White, Warner; District Four—Betty Crow, Altus; Linda W. Reese, Norman; State at Large—Samonia Meredith Byford, Oklahoma City; Billie Stone Fogarty, Oklahoma City; Sandy Barker Olson, Waynoka; and Barbara Thompson, Oklahoma City.

Museums and Sites. William Corbett reported that work continues on the Fort Towson Visitors Center. The Pioneer Woman Museum is under renovation, and work is under way to stabilize the remains of one of the barracks at Fort Washita. Plans are underway to raise money to reconstruct the barracks that was destroyed by fire. A resolution was considered and passed regarding reenactments. Dr. Corbett moved that a reenactment at Honey Springs be scheduled for every other odd year beginning in November 2013. Encampments will be held at Fort Washita and Cabin Creek on alternating even numbered years beginning September 28 to 29, 2012, at Cabin Creek. Seconded by Ken Rainbolt, the motion passed.

Collections. Barbara Thompson reported that artifacts were reviewed for donation and all were accepted. Two loans were reviewed and discussed: one to the Judicial Center and one, a 1930s microphone, to the Oklahoma City Zoo's ZooZeum. There were no deaccessions to discuss.

Indian Heritage. Jack Baker reported that the Oklahoma History Center is in partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and has borrowed several items from them that it is now time to return. Being returned are items from the Pawnee, Fort Sill Apache, Wichita, Sac and Fox, Cherokee, and Otoe Nations. Matt Reed visited with them during the last quarter to select new items that will be borrowed for the Indian Gallery. In the Indian Gallery there are rotating tribal exhibits that the tribes themselves create and furnish with artifacts. The Chickasaw exhibit is up right now and the Chickasaws have agreed to donate all the items in the exhibit to the Oklahoma History Center. Matt continues to work with the National Indian Education Association in preparation for their annual conference that will be held in Oklahoma City in November. At the Murrell Home, David Fowler is working with the Cherokee Heritage Center on their display *Brother vs. Brother* on the Civil War. In commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, he is also working on a teacher symposium on the Civil War in Indian Territory. At the History Center on the Feb 9 to 11 is the presentation by the Lincoln interpreter Fritz Kline on Lincoln and the Indians. On April 21 the Caddo Cultural Club will have the Caddo Cultural Dances and the Caddo Ceramics Symposium at the History Center.

Oklahoma Museum of History. Barbara Thompson reported the movie exhibit area will be closed until the middle of May. A Nan Sheets painting has been purchased for the museum. Marketing and promotion activities were discussed. The Abraham Lincoln interpreter will be here February 9 to 11 and James Anderson from the Mount Vernon Estate will be here on February 2. History Day will be May 2 and 3. Jason Harris is working on Saturday programs for families. The Oklahoma Museum of History was officially granted the accreditation process. The whole process is due to be completed in June.

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Annual Meeting. Paul Lambert announced that this year's Annual Meeting will be held in Miami, Oklahoma, on April 18, 19, and 20. Interesting programs are planned. A concert will be held at the Coleman Theater on Wednesday night featuring musicians who played folk music in the 1950s and 1960s in Oklahoma coffeehouses. Mason Williams will be featured in the concert.

Proposed Executive Session

Denzil Garrison moved to go into Executive Session under 25 O.S. 2001 § 307(B)(1) to discuss the Evaluation Committee's Evaluation Summary of the Performance of the Executive Director. Seconded by James Waldo, the motion passed. Thereafter, executive session took place. Denzil Garrison moved to adjourn the executive session and return to open session. Seconded by Roger Rinehart, the motion carried.

The meeting resumed in open session.

Guy Logsdon moved to accept the Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director as presented by the Evaluation Committee. Second by Dan Lawrence, the motion carried.

Bob Blackburn thanked the Board for his evaluation and confidence to go forward.

He also thanked Geneva Little, who will be retiring March 31, for her years of service. The members of the Board all stood as a token of appreciation for contributions to the OHS, the Board, and to the office of the executive director.

New Business

Bill Corbett stated that at the November Executive Committee meeting the discussion of amending the constitution arose and Dan Lawrence moved to start the process immediately by initiative petition. The motion carried. The amendment was to be considered by the Board at the January meeting and was to be mailed to Board members prior to the meeting. That did not appear on the agenda. Bob Blackburn explained because of time limitations, an initiative petition was circulated and signed by the required number of members of the OHS so that the proposed amendment could be acted upon at the Annual Meeting in April.

Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, Karen Keith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Shirley Nero, the motion carried. President Stidham declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

EMMY S. STIDHAM, President