



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society
Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 24, 2013

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., July 24, 2013, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

Roll Call

Members present: Jack Baker, Sherry Beasley, Mickey Clagg, Bill Corbett, Cheryl Evans, Deena Fisher, Leonard Logan, Sherry Muchmore, Shirley Nero, Sandra Olson, Donna Sharpe, Emmy Stidham, Lewis Stiles, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Emeritus members present: Thalia Eddleman, Dan Lawrence, and Paul Mathews.

Members excused: Betty Crow, Frederick Drummond, Billie Fogarty, Karen Keith, Martha Lippert, Guy Logsdon, Patricia Loughlin, John Mabrey, and Betty Price.

Echoes of History

Prior to Echoes of History, Dan Lawrence presented Jim Waldo with the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara from the Field Artillery Association for his service in the Vietnam War.

Following the special presentation, Dr. Blackburn presented Echoes of Board History, borrowing from a board meeting held on July 29, 1976. Dr. Blackburn stated that he likes to look back to see when the seed was planted for different programs in the history of the OHS.

Approval of Minutes

Quarterly Board Minutes, April 17, 2013

Meeting of the Membership, April 18, 2013

Special Meeting, April 18, 2013

Jack Baker moved to approve the minutes from the annual meeting. Bill Corbett seconded the motion. Prior to voting, Dr. Corbett pointed out that in the Quarterly Board Minutes in section four of Echoes of History the last line should read Thoburn not Corburn. As corrected, the motion carried.

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Treasurer's Report

Leonard Logan reported that the OHS has \$1,774,193.00 in cash in the State Treasurer's Office. The OHS has \$200,720.00 invested in the Salomon Smith Barney account. This was originally a \$150,000 investment. The OHS has \$160,011.00 invested in Federated with an original investment of \$150,000. However, there are monthly drawdowns of \$750 per month from that account. The OHS has \$1,952,835.00 invested at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Endowment Fund. The total cash and invested funds of the OHS amount to \$4,087,759.00.

Executive Director's Report

Report on 2013 Legislative Session. Dr. Blackburn reported that the OHS budget was approved by the legislature at a standstill, which means no increase or decrease in annual funding. There were several bills proposed that would have affected the OHS that did not pass. One of those was repealing the tax credit for historic preservation. Additionally, the cowboy song bill was never considered by the House. A few things did pass that will affect the OHS. An executive order was declared by the governor that all new vehicles ordered by state agencies have to be powered by natural gas. This might prove to be an issue for the OHS since there are not compressed natural gas stations in many of the areas that the agency has sites and museums. In metropolitan areas it is not an issue, but off the interstates it is more difficult to find natural gas stations that are within the areas in which the agency might need to travel. There is a new commission called the State Building Commission, which is looking into properties to declare surplus. One of the properties that it is looking into is the State Capitol Publishing Museum in Guthrie. Dr. Blackburn finished his report by giving an overview of the OKPOP's status at the end of the legislative session. Despite a proposed funding bill passing the Senate subcommittee for a vote in the full Senate and being put before the House subcommittee for a similar vote, the May 20 tornado caused the House subcommittee to break that afternoon when the OKPOP vote was to be held. Following the devastation caused by the storm, all those involved with the OKPOP agreed that it would not be appropriate to request the Legislature to consider the funding when other needs were more pressing for the state and therefore asked the House subcommittee to not consider the bill.

Consideration of Legislative Requests for 2014. Dr. Blackburn recommended to the board to consider the OKPOP Project, grants-in-aid program for rural sites in Oklahoma, and an across-the-board pay increase for state employees as legislative priorities for the OHS in 2014.

Lewis Stiles moved to approve the consideration of the legislative requests for 2014. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried.

Review of budget expenditures for FY-13. Dr. Blackburn reviewed the OHS's expenditures for the fiscal year of 2013. Dr. Blackburn stated that the expenditures are at the levels expected.

Consideration of a budget for FY-14. Dr. Blackburn presented the budget projections for FY 14 for the consideration of the board. The cost of maintaining what the OHS does will cost the agency an increase of \$204,664. OHS appropriations remain the same, but costs are increasing. However, the OHS does have roll-over cash from FY13 amounting to \$145,500. Further, the OHS has \$70,000 remaining from a rebate credit from overpayment on bond payments for the History Center.

Barbara Thompson moved to approve the budget for FY 14. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried.

Consideration of policy on declaring collections surplus and earmarking proceeds. As discussed at the last quarterly board meeting, the OHS needed to develop a policy on declaring collections surplus and earmarking the proceeds. Dan Provo developed a draft of a policy that the OHS would use for this purpose. This policy

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was drafted utilizing language drawn from other reputable collecting institutions in the museum world. Any proceeds from the sale of a collection item would go back into development of collections, not into general revenue.

Leonard Logan moved to approve the policy on declaring collections surplus and earmarking proceeds. Seconded by Lewis Stiles, the motion carried.

Consideration of new exhibit called *Crossroads of Commerce*. Dr. Blackburn explained that for the past few years OHS staff have been working on a project regarding the history of business in Oklahoma, which will become an exhibit opening in December 2014. George Records, who is the president of MidFirst Bank, has agreed to serve as the chairman of the advisory and fundraising committee for the exhibit. OHS staff members have already raised \$170,000 for the aviation section of the exhibit. Dr. Blackburn asked the board to review the accompanying handout at their leisure and to come back with any suggestions they might have. This project is ambitious, but will be lucrative in making contacts and increasing OHS collections. Dr. Blackburn asked the board to consider adopting this project as an official OHS project.

Barbara Thompson moved to approve the adoption of the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit. Seconded by Cheryl Evans, the motion carried.

Notification of Declaration of Emergency for Pioneer Woman Museum due to faulty HVAC unit. Dr. Blackburn notified the board of a Declaration of Emergency at the Pioneer Woman Museum due to a faulty HVAC unit that occurred just prior to the museum reopening to the public.

Committee Reports

Indian Heritage Report. Jack Baker informed the board about changes that have been made to the Indian Gallery. There is work ongoing for American Indian Heritage Month, which takes place in November. There will be dance demonstrations and traditional games in addition to other activities. *Daughter of Dawn* has been shown in Altus and Fort Larned, Kansas, during the last quarter. Three OHS staff members attended and presented at the Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums 2013 Conference in Albuquerque.

Bill Welge took the floor to discuss the guide to the Indian records. Last October, Tara Damron began to assist with the project. This guide will be accessible online, as well as in print. The guide will be useful not only for researchers but also for OHS staff. The project has taken longer than anticipated largely in part due to maintenance needed on the documents. Dr. Blackburn stated that he was approached by Jacquie Hensley, who is the governor's cabinet secretary for Indian Affairs. The legislature abolished the Office of Indian Affairs last year and transferred it to the Governor's Office. For years the Office of Indian Affairs issued a pocket guide to Oklahoma's Indian tribes. Dr. Blackburn and Mr. Welge would like to take over this project. The OHS would like to be partners with the Governor's Office and tribes around the state in keeping the information about tribal leaders and other data such as cultural facilities updated.

Museums and Sites. Bill Corbett explained two considerations to be brought before the board. The first was an extension of the lease with the Kirkpatrick Foundation for the Fort Towson property. The lease expired a few years ago and needs to be renewed.

Dr. Corbett moved to extend the lease with the Kirkpatrick Foundation. Seconded by Deena Fisher, the motion carried.

Dr. Corbett explained that the Friends of the Frank Phillips Home purchased a lot adjacent to the land at the Frank Phillips Home. They would like to donate that land to the OHS.

Dr. Corbett moved to accept the donation of land from the Friends of the Frank Phillips Home. Seconded by Shirley Nero, the motion carried.

Annual Meeting. Bill Corbett told the board that the next OHS Annual Meeting will

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be held in Stillwater on April 23, 24, and 25, 2014. The theme is *Crossroads of Commerce: The Free Enterprise of Oklahoma*. The meeting will be held at the Stillwater Conference Center. The first evening on Wednesday night will be held at the OSU alumni center. The call for papers has been issued. Lastly, the OHS would like to reinstate the bus tours that used to take place during annual meetings.

Development/Endowment/Membership. Jim Waldo stated that development has raised more than \$210,000 in endowment donations that exceed the stated goal of \$167,000. The OHS has a general fundraising goal of \$1,695,000; the OHS has exceeded that goal by raising \$1,778,540. Lastly, in terms of membership goals, the OHS is now at 9,743 members with a current goal of 10,000.

Historic Preservation. Melvena Heisch stated that the 2013 Statewide Preservation Conference held in Perry went well. The SHPO is in the process of updating the State Historic Plan. The 2014 Statewide Preservation Conference will be held in Norman on June 4, 5, and 6.

Research. Jack Baker reported that the Research Division has generated \$118,000 in funds. Chronicling American and the Gateway to Oklahoma History Project have digitized all the pre-1923 Oklahoma newspapers. The OHS staff members have provided internet access to more than 88,000 issues and 666,000 pages of newspaper. The division has also renegotiated the Channel 4 film and video gift agreement, which will give the OHS full ownership and will allow the agency to seek grants to begin the digitization process.

Chad Williams presented information about the Century Chest and explained that there will be a mini exhibit in the foyer of the History Center that highlights items from Oklahoma City that were found in the Century Chest. In October the cases will be changed to feature American Indian items found in the Century Chest, and beginning in January and closing in March 2014 the mini exhibit will highlight items that focus on the state overall. In April 2014 the museum will open an exhibit featuring all of the items found in the Century Chest.

Publications. Deena Fisher stated that the summer issue of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* will go to print in August. So far, seven manuscripts have been submitted this last quarter. The August issue of *Mistletoe Leaves* has been sent out. To date there have been 748 issues of the encyclopedia sold bringing the sales to \$59,965.00. The break-even point for the project was \$38,000. The encyclopedia has been online for the past six years. There have been a few issues that have come up over the years with OSU regarding ownership transparency, design, and usability for researchers. The Publications Department would like to move the encyclopedia to the OHS website. The former director of the Publications Department Dianna Everett has agreed to come back part time to help with this transfer.

Bill Corbett moved to accept the proposed changes to the encyclopedia. Seconded by Jack Baker, the motion carried.

Black Heritage. Shirley Nero presented a handout summarizing the work of the Black Heritage Committee during the last quarter. In June, the OHS hosted a program with the Black Liberated Arts Center and the Ralph Ellison Centennial Committee. The program was entitled "Ralph Ellison: Understood through Charlie Christian." Mrs. Nero also discussed the work OHS research staff members are doing on digitizing the Clara Luper Collection.

Oklahoma Museum of History. Leonard Logan moved to approve the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center Board of Directors. Seconded by Jack Baker, the motion carried.

A proposal for fees for movie location shoots on OHS property was considered, but no action was taken on this agenda item.

Collections. A motion was made by Leonard Logan to table the vote on the revisions

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to the OHS Collection Policy. Seconded by Lewis Stiles, the motion carried.

New Committee Appointments

President Emmy Stidham appointed Billie Fogarty to the Publications Committee and Donna Sharpe to the Historic Preservation Committee.

New Business

Shirley Nero invited board members to attend History through Music Program: The Blues, an event to be held on August 29 at the History Center.

Dan Provo announced that the grandson of emeritus board member Denzil Garrison arrived back from serving in Afghanistan today.

Adjournment

The quarterly board meeting was adjourned by President Stidham at 4:15 p.m.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

EMMY S. STIDHAM, President