

☆FOR THE RECORD

Minutes of the OHS Quarterly Board Meeting

April 25, 1986

President Denzil D. Garrison called to order at 2:15 p.m. the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors. The meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tulsa in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the membership of the Society.

Executive Director C. E. Metcalf was asked to call the roll and those responding were Dr. Brad Agnew, Dr. W. David Baird, Edna H. Bowman, Donald L. Coffin, Jack T. Conn, Dr. Odie B. Faulk, W. D. Finney, Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer, President Garrison, Dr. Donald E. Green, Brunetta B. Griffith, Martin A. Hagerstrand, Jack D. Haley, James O. Kemm, Ralph McCalmont, Alma A. Pringle, Jordan B. Reaves, Ellen K. Walcher and Lu Celia Wise. Ben Blackstock, Berenice Jackson, Ruth Eager Moran and Lewis Stiles, D.V.M., had asked to be excused. John Massey was absent.

President Garrison congratulated the re-elected members: Lu Celia Wise, Tulsa, District One; Ralph McCalmont, Guthrie, District Three; Odie B. Faulk, Muskogee, and Jack D. Haley, Norman, at large; and those re-appointed by Governor George Nigh: James O. Kemm, Tulsa, District One; Jack T. Conn, Oklahoma City, District Five; and Ben Blackstock and Alma A. Pringle of Oklahoma City, and Ellen K. Walcher, Woodward, at large. A justice of the Supreme Court will be asked to administer the oath of office at the July meeting of the Board.

Mr. Metcalf presented for approval the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of January 15, February 19 and March 19, 1986; the minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting of January 29; and the minutes of the meetings of the Burkhardt Trustees held January 15, February 19 and March 19. Mr. Haley moved to accept the minutes as mailed; Mrs. Wise seconded and acceptance was unanimous.

Mr. Metcalf submitted the gift lists from the Research Library, the Museums Division and the Archives and Manuscripts Division. Mr. McCalmont moved to accept the gifts; Dr. Faulk seconded and the gifts were accepted unanimously.

Mr. Metcalf said that there was substantial increase in the number of membership applications—a total of 272 during the quarter. Four of these were life member applications from George H. Cobb, Dennis J. RedElk, and Pauline and Ralph W. Shebester. Mrs. Bowman moved to accept the new members; Mrs. Walcher seconded and approval of the motion was unanimous.

Dr. Baird explained that the Archives and Manuscripts Committee had not met, but he did present a matter of concern for the preservation of valuable slides in the collections and for the need for an addition of a computer for the division.

President Garrison noted that the Black Heritage Committee had not met since the demise of Zella M. Patterson. He then appointed Mrs. Pringle as the new chairman of the committee.

Mr. Finney said the Historic Preservation Committee had chosen not to meet because of the full Annual Meeting schedule, but he called attention to the public relations benefits brought to the Society by the members of the Historic Preservation Division when providing workshops around the state. Mr. McCalmont announced that a recipient had been chosen to receive the George H. Shirk Memorial Award. Cindy Rambo, Director of the Department of Economic and Community Affairs, had been

FOR THE RECORD

selected because of her efforts in encouraging the participation of five state cities in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Community Program. The plaque was to be presented at the Awards Banquet.

Colonel Hagerstrand said that although the Historic Sites Committee had not met, progress was being made by the committee on long-range planning and that an interpretive program for Fort Gibson Military Park was beginning to develop.

Mrs. Wise reported that she had met with each member of the Indian Heritage Committee on their cultural enrichment programs. She told of Archie Mason's contribution to the May-June issue of *Oklahoma Today* in an article on Osage history and culture.

Mr. Haley did not present a report from the Library Resources Committee.

Dr. Fischer reviewed the Membership Committee's efforts to increase and retain membership in the Oklahoma Historical Society and he spoke of contacting regional historical societies' members, noting that they were the best friends of history in Oklahoma.

The Museums Committee was the only committee to meet prior to the Board meeting, said Mr. Reaves. He called attention to the perfect attendance of the committee members during the past year, adding that the members had personally visited every major Society museum in the state. He said that those on the committee believed they should be consulted if it became necessary to close any of the museums because of budget restrictions.

Mr. Reaves reported that a number of items had been considered for deaccessioning by the committee. They included the safe emptying of two aerosol cans of insecticide which were deteriorating. The containers had been donated by L. D. Goodhue, inventor of the aerosol can. Another item was a coffee mill in poor condition which could be rebuilt and used in hands-on educational programs. Mr. Reaves moved, Dr. Fischer seconded, that the items be deaccessioned.

Two loan requests were presented by Mr. Reaves; one from the Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art for a lithograph, "Bird's-eye View of Guthrie," and another request for various Indian artifacts from the Plains Indians and Pioneer Historical Foundation. The Museums staff had recommended that the items be loaned, after an appraisal was made of a pair of men's beaded leggings. The Museum Director had requested that the Plains Indians museum be required to carry insurance for the appraisal amount. Mr. Coffin moved, Mr. McCalmont seconded, that the loans be approved and approval was unanimous.

Portraits of Governor and Mrs. Roy Turner were recommended for acceptance by the Museums staff. Both paintings were donated by Bekins Moving and Storage. Mr. Reaves moved the portraits be accepted. Dr. Baird seconded, and acceptance was unanimous.

Dr. Fischer reported that the Publications and Education Division had published *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and "Mistletoe Leaves" within their time schedules. He said the Museum Store had been assigned during the quarter from the Publications and Education Division to the Deputy Director.

Dr. Faulk moved, seconded by Mr. Conn, to adopt the reports from all the committee chairmen. Agreement was unanimous.

Mr. Metcalf announced that Delmas Ford, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, had advised him that it would be legal to lease the Carriage House, Overholser Mansion, to the Oklahoma Chapter, American Institute of Architects. Mr. Ford had instructed that the property should be declared surplus to the operations of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Executive Committee had recommended that the

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

lease be altered to include a provision that the Oklahoma Chapter, American Institute of Architects, would pay their own utility expenses. Mr. Metcalf added that Dr. Raymond Yeh, Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Oklahoma, and president of the Oklahoma Chapter, American Institute of Architects, had assured him that the organization would pay the utilities.

Mr. McCalmont moved that the Carriage House be declared surplus for a period of three years, beginning April 16, 1985, and that the Executive Director be authorized to enter into such an agreement with the architectural group. President Garrison noted that the Attorney General had been consulted in order to work on the best position and recommended that the motion be adopted. Dr. Fischer seconded and approval was unanimous.

The Executive Director called the Board's attention to the likelihood of the need to close one or more sites or museums. After discussion regarding different sites, Dr. Faulk moved that the Executive Committee be given the responsibility of making those determinations when the Society's appropriation bill was signed. Dr. Green seconded. Discussion continued, with attention being given to the matter of site-closing criteria. Some believed that there should be input into the decisions from members of the Museums and Historic Sites committees, as well as the recommendations of the State Historic Preservation Review Committee as provided in House Bill 1083, 1983. After a show of hands, the motion was passed with thirteen for, six against, giving the Executive Committee the complete responsibility of any closing of sites or museums.

The Executive Director reported on the Attorney General's opinion of March 24 which concluded that a contract between the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Town of Fort Gibson was not in compliance with applicable statutory law—decreeing that contracts should be negotiated by the Director of the Office of Public Affairs, be approved by the Governor, and any such property be declared surplus to the Society's needs. This problem arose because a sub-contract apparently had been signed between the Town of Fort Gibson and the Round-up Club for sole use of the rodeo arena at the site.

Mr. Metcalf further informed the group that the Attorney General had presented various problems that could arise regarding the Society's liability should an accident occur during the Round-up Club's use of the area. Because of these factors, the Attorney General had suggested that the Society's best option would be to exercise the termination provision in the contract. Mr. McCalmont moved that the contract be terminated in accordance with the thirty (30) days written notice provision, as adopted by the Executive Committee at its April 16 meeting. Dr. Fischer seconded and agreement was unanimous.

Mrs. Walcher presented the invitation of the City of Woodward to host the 1987 Annual Meeting of the Society. The date coincides with the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Woodward and Mrs. Walcher said she had been instructed by civic leaders to convey the message that they would consider it a great honor if the Oklahoma Historical Society would be a part of that celebration. She moved that the Board accept the invitation and Dr. Green seconded. Dr. Baird moved that Dr. Green be appointed chairman of that Annual Meeting and Mrs. Walcher seconded. Both motions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Reaves moved that the Board give an official thanks to Dr. Baird for the fine job he had done in organizing and managing the Tulsa meeting, saying it had been a fine and successful event. Mr. McCalmont seconded and agreement was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

DENZIL D. GARRISON, PRESIDENT

C. E. METCALF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR