



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society
Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Corbett at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, in the Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom of the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73105.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members present: Jack Baker, Sherry Beasley, Mickey Clagg, Bill Corbett, Frederick Drummond, Cheryl Evans, Deena Fisher, Billie Fogarty, Karen Keith, Leonard Logan, Guy Logsdon, Patricia Loughlin, Shirley Nero, Linda Reese, Bill Settle, Kenneth Sivard, Lewis Stiles, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Members excused: Martha Lippert, John Mabrey, Sherry Muchmore, Sandra Olson, and Donna Sharpe.

Emeritus members present: Dan Lawrence and Emmy Stidham.

Presentation from Oklahoma City Community Foundation

Kelly Barnes and Joe Carter of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation gave a presentation regarding the OCCF.

Presentation of Service Pin

A service pin was presented to Mike Bell of the Oklahoma History Center for twenty-five years of service.

Echoes of History

Dr. Blackburn read from board minutes from 1996, which was approximately twenty years ago. Dr. Blackburn stated that today the OHS is about to celebrate ten years in the History Center. However, twenty years ago the OHS was still ten years away from opening the History Center. The need for a

FOR THE RECORD

new institutional home for the OHS had been recognized and was in the early planning phases. There were a few potential revenue sources available at the time, such as use of one-time money that was available through a general obligation bond and the Reynolds Foundation, which had limited its funding to three states including Oklahoma, giving the OHS a better chance of receiving grant funds. At this meeting three options were discussed. One plan was to move into the Journal Record Building. This would have been in partnership with the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Another option was to create a new museum in Bricktown in conjunction with MAPS projects. The last option was to add sixty thousand square feet to the old Historical Society building. During the meeting the board voted to continue investigating all three options. None of them materialized. Dr. Blackburn stated that it is good to remind oneself that actions are sometimes best left unfulfilled. In the end, the OHS got the best deal possible in the site and structure that is now the History Center.

Approval of Quarterly Board Minutes

Frederick Drummond moved to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2015, Quarterly Board Meeting. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Fisher reported that the OHS has \$1,914,445.61 in cash at the State Treasurer's Office. The OHS has \$200,575.82 invested in a Salomon Smith Barney account. This was originally a \$150,000 investment. The OHS has \$150,821.18 invested at Federated with an original investment of \$150,000. However, there are monthly drawdowns of \$750 per month from that account. The OHS has \$2,322,100 invested in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Endowment Fund. The total cash and invested funds of the OHS amount to \$4,587,952.61.

Committee Reports

Publications. *Report on digitization of The Chronicles of Oklahoma.* Dr. Loughlin reported that there are three phases to the digitization of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. By the end of 2015, fifty-six volumes will be online. The volumes published between 1979 and 2002 will be online as soon as the copyright issues are resolved. Once those have gone online, the process will begin to place the 2003 to present-day volumes online.

Research. *Report on digitization of photos and newspapers.* Ms. Fogarty reported that there are 1,460,000 newspaper pages currently on the Gateway to Oklahoma History, as well as 376,000 photos from the OPUBCO Collection. By November 16, 2015, there will be 500,000 OPUBCO Collection photos on the Gateway.

Indian Heritage. *Report on collections and consultations.* Mr. Tate reported that OHS staff recently visited the Sac and Fox Nation. Staff also has met with the Muscogee Nation about archival storage issues and digital records.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Consideration of a schedule, budget, and architect selection process for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP)

Dr. Blackburn presented a handout to board members with a budget and schedule. He reminded the board that all funds used will be reimbursable once the bonds are sold. Jeff Moore stated that on November 6, 2015, the letters of interest will be mailed out to architectural firms and that December 4, 2015, is the deadline for responses. Another handout containing a timeline for the selection process was discussed with the board. Mr. Moore explained that he was currently working on creating a 501(c)3 for the OKPOP. Dr. Blackburn finished the proposal by stating that, at the moment, the plan is to sell the bonds in July 2016.

Guy Logsdon moved to approve a schedule, budget, and architect selection process for the OKPOP. Seconded by Lewis Stiles, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a plan for the fiftieth anniversary of the Gemini VI and VII flights

Dan Provo announced that December 2015 is the fiftieth anniversary of the Gemini VI and VII flights. There is no official event taking place. History Center staff members have spoken to General Thomas Stafford about having a reunion. As of now there are seven confirmed astronauts and other NASA officials interested in participating in the proposed event. The event will be an evening program with a sit-down dinner.

Lewis Stiles moved to approve the fiftieth anniversary event for the Gemini VI and VII flights at the History Center. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a plan for online access to OHS museum collections

Mr. Provo stated that over the years the OHS's archival information has been digitized and made public. He continued by stating that the museum also would like to make collections available online. PastPerfect, the software currently used to track museum collections, has created a new platform for sharing those collections with the public. Mr. Provo believes that this new platform will help better serve OHS patrons and hopefully create a new audience.

Leonard Logan moved to approve a plan for online access to OHS museum collections. Seconded by Billie Fogarty, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Review of budget projections and expenditures. Dr. Blackburn reviewed the previous quarter's projections and expenditures with the board.

Status of budget cuts, staff, and operations. Dr. Blackburn explained that he and other key staff have been traveling around the state to explain the OHS's new policy for funding museums and sites. He stated that the prospect

of the grants-in-aid funding has helped to soften the blow to some of these communities. For those sites that funding is no longer available, staff members have been working to find solutions within the community. So far, none of the sites have closed their doors.

Status of efforts to develop a partnership with the Will Rogers Memorial. A conversation focused on the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. The memorial's executive director, Tad Jones, was in attendance and gave the OHS Board an overview of funding and operations. Following his presentation, it was mutually agreed that there was an advantage to a stronger partnership between the two organizations in the future.

Preparations for possible revenue shortfall and probable budget cut in Fiscal Year 2017. Dr. Blackburn stated that the OHS is preparing for a 10 percent budget cut in FY-17. In addition, the OHS is preparing for a revenue shortfall. Revenue shortfalls hit the OHS particularly hard, as bond payments cannot be shielded from the cut. Therefore, a 1 percent shortfall would mean 1.3 percent once the bond payments for the History Center are added. A 1 percent cut would equal \$120,000 that the OHS would have to cut out of the budget for the rest of the year. Right now, savings would come from \$100,000 from the deferred maintenance account for the History Center, \$10,000 from the State Historic Preservation Office, and an estimated \$40,000 from growth in sales tax revenue. That totals \$150,000 in reserve funds. Therefore, a 1 percent revenue shortfall could be covered with reserve funds. If a 2 percent shortfall should occur, which would equal \$240,000, then savings would have to be found elsewhere. The hope is to accrue some savings from unfilled positions through a soft hiring freeze. Another option is to delay spending to create savings. Unfortunately, the OHS has shrunk operations so much in the past few years there is not a lot to be saved in this area. The last option would be a furlough.

Tenth anniversary of the Oklahoma History Center and the opening of *Crossroads of Commerce: A History of Free Enterprise in Oklahoma*. Dr. Blackburn quickly reminded board members that on November 16 there will be a tenth anniversary celebration and official opening of the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit. He noted that the event will be paid for with private funds from the Friends of the Oklahoma History Center.

New Business

Dr. Blackburn noted that yesterday Governor Mary Fallin issued an executive order requiring state agencies to receive governing body and cabinet approval for projects costing more than \$10,000. He then presented a list to the board of projected purchases of more than \$10,000 that will need approval before the next board meeting. These projects were associated with the Long Range Capital Improvement Fund.

Leonard Logan moved to approve an exemption for critical repair and maintenance expenditures above \$10,000. Seconded by Frederick Drummond, the motion carried unanimously.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Adjournment

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

WILLIAM CORBETT, President

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 digital.library.okstate.edu. The tables of contents for Volumes 81–91 can be found online at www.okhistory.org/publications.