

**OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 22, 2023 – 1:00 pm**  
**Ohio History Connection – Cardinal Classroom**  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

- Trustees Present:** Charles Moses (President), Melody Young (Treasurer), Alex Hastie (Secretary), Chief Billy Friend, Steve Coon, Jon Elsasser, Jen Miller, Bob Roach, Rich Hillis, Guadalupe Valasquez, Renu Ramankutty (Newly Elected)
- Trustees Absent:** Greg Simpson, Betty Montgomery (Newly Elected)
- Trustees on Zoom:** Ann Bair (Vice President), JB Hadden, Heidi Samuel, Betty Weibel (Vice President), Tom Chema (Immediate Past President), Anthony Joseph
- Ex Officios on Zoom:** Andrew Brenner (Designee for Senate President), Dr. Christopher Woolard (Superintendent for Public Instruction, interim), Joan Cashin (President, Ohio Academy of History)
- Ex Officios Present:** Katelyn Bowling (Designee for Director, Ohio Department of Development), Jennifer Brown (Designee for Governor Mike DeWine), Michael Woytek (President, Ohio Academy of Sciences, Laura Battocietti (Director, Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board), Leslie Wagner (President, Ohio Local History Alliance), Gary Cates
- Staff & Others Present:** Megan Wood, Steve George, Jerry Dannemiller, Jen Aultman, Kevin Boehner, Wesley Newhouse, (General Counsel), Stacia Kuceyeski, Jeff Ward

**I. Call to Order**

President Charles Moses called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Mr. Moses welcomed and introduced the new ex-officio board members attending, Leslie Wagner, Ohio Local History Alliance, Katelyn Bowling, Ohio Department of Development and Dr. Chris Woolard, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mr. Moses introduced our two board members being elected today Renu Ramankutty and Betty Montgomery, who was unable to attend today.

We are working towards 100% board participation in giving. There is no mandatory amount, but 100% board participation is important as OHC seeks funds from foundations and corporations.

The board retreat will be held August 24 & 25, in Central Ohio. Any trustees that would like to be part of the planning process, contact Mr. Moses. Board officers will be part of the committee.

The trustees will talk about the court case during the Executive session.

Mrs. Wood's one-year anniversary is coming up on August 1. There are dates in early August that we want to try to schedule her annual review prior to the retreat. Any trustees who would like to be a part of this process, contact Mr. Moses.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Wood shared highlights about things that have been going on since the last meeting. The last few weeks we received good news from the International Coalition on Sites and Monuments who reviews World Heritage nominations. They provide official recommendations to the World Heritage committee. The Hopewell Ceremony Earthworks was recommended for inscription with no conditions, giving us a clean bill of health on our nomination. Thanks to Jen Aultman for the work on that and the entire team. The United States is reentering UNESCO in July and will be paying dues and arrears. OHC contributed a voluntary application fee because the U.S. has not paid to be part of UNESCO. When OHC goes in September for the World Heritage committee meeting for the vote on our nomination, we will both be a member of UNESCO as the U.S. and we have a positive recommendation. We're feeling very good about the nomination. The World Heritage committee will vote on our nomination in Saudi Arabia in September, between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Will make plans for Jen Aultman, Brad Lepper, and Megan Wood to be there.

OHC is in the process of planning celebration events. Jerry Dannemiller passed around Save the Date cards giving heads up of days we're holding and planning to do celebrations. Trying to get the dates on calendars of other important people. More details will be coming.

A few months ago, Mrs. Wood sent an email to trustees about a letter OHC received from the United States Senate Indian Affairs committee asking about our NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act) program, requesting additional information about OHC's compliance, based on an article written by Pro Publica that came out earlier in the year. OHC responded honestly and confidently about our compliance of the law and steps we're taking to work with federally recognized tribes. Mrs. Wood shared a message passed by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, showing the relationships we've created are important in this work.

Other news, events for the past few weeks; Ohio Village held Storybook Village on June 10 we had more than 1300 people. June 17, Juneteenth on the Ave was held on the Near East Side of Columbus, organized in part by Shelby Toone and James Preston Poindexter Foundation. On June 15<sup>th</sup> Conestoga held their annual meeting and presented a \$60,000 check to the Poindexter project. This was their largest annual contribution ever.

Thanks to everyone who went to the fundraising event at the Kings Arts complex. On June 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our second Jubilee Day in Ohio Village, a heritage celebration of Juneteenth with over a thousand people in attendance. This was a free admission day. Sponsorships brought in by the development team made it possible. On June 21<sup>st</sup> over a thousand people attended the Summer Solstice at Serpent Mound. Members of the Eastern Shawnee and

Shawnee tribes joined the celebration.  
The Harding Presidential Symposium in July is featuring Whitehouse photographer for both Reagan & Obama, Pete Souza.  
The OHC and OV will have a joint ticket with the Ohio State Fair this year.

The senate version of the state operating budget included two changes from the house budget in FY25; historic sites line was reduced by 1.5 million, from the house and governor's version of the budget, the new World Heritage site line item was zeroed out in the FY25. Kevin Boehner started circulating, drafted, and working with Representative Manning's office on two amendments to try to make that change in the omnibus version, it wasn't successful. Currently in the senate version we will receive a 29.1% increase in our line items, next fiscal year. FY25 will be an 8.4% reduction over the FY24 numbers. If there is a debt difference, we will make plans on how to address the gap that affects our ability to operate historic sites. Since this impacts FY25 it gives us time to be strategic and address that reality.

Senator Brenner inquired how the 10% increase you're getting on an average in the next two years impacts anything in particular?

Mrs. Wood responded, with inflation our budget has remained flat and to the negative and when you adjust over time, we were planning to give significant increases to site manager partners and deal with inflationary pressures, it will affect our ability to improve our sites if we can't continue with the planned increases. For the World Heritage sites, we're receiving World Heritage inscription in the next fiscal year. We will have increased needs at those places. We would have to take the dollars for that out of our historic sites line items if that line item is zeroed out. Mrs. Wood and Kevin Boehner will connect offline with Senator Brenner on more details.

Ann Ruege shared breaking news, OHC received \$420,000 last year from Greater Columbus Arts Council, this year we found out we'll be getting \$572,000.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Wood mentioned the executive committee report has several updates to OHC's employee information manual, policies that must be passed by the board. Are there any updates that the trustees would like to talk about before taking action to accept the consent agenda?

Mr. Moses entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2 board meeting and the May 17 executive committee meeting. Motion to approve minutes was unanimously approved.

Jeff Ward shared a few instances in where checks going out to a vendor have been intercepted within the postal service. Working with Huntington Bank, OHC has policies and procedures in place to prevent this. OHC has a system in place called Positive Pay. OHC also has fraud insurance. Jeff met with Huntington today, talking about more steps we might be able to do.

Mr. Moses entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion to approve the consent agent was unanimously approved.

### **III. Ethics Training**

Wes Newhouse presented the Code of Ethics training with a focus on avoiding conflict of interest.

Each trustee will be required to fill out Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms after the training. Return all forms to Theresa.

### **IV. Fundraising Update**

Mrs. Ruege stated the importance of having 100% board participation in giving and appreciation for being strong advocates. Giving USA came out with their results from this past year. This is our yearly charitable contributions report done by the Lily School of Philanthropy in Indiana. This past year there was a steep decline in charitable giving. Inflation was a big reason for this. We're trying to figure out different ways to combat it. We need to focus on a wider pool of prospects. Turnover in fundraising departments also affects fundraising. OHC has a full team now. Unrestricted money is so important and allows us to take advantage of it when an emergency arises. The goal in the new fiscal year is for Ann, Garin and Anthony to connect with each of the trustees to see how they can work together in collaboration with fundraising. Mrs. Ruege's goal is to schedule time with each trustee in the new fiscal to talk about how best to work together. Having house parties in each region of Ohio, separate from Central Ohio, is another goal for fundraising. Fundraising committee will be started back up soon.

Mrs. Bair inquired if there is a specific fund to direct funding for the FY25 zeroed out UNESCO & World Heritage sites.

Ann Ruege will send out the online link to give to the World Heritage Inscription fund.

### **V. Organizational Finance FY24 Budget Update**

Mr. Ward shared an overview of the proposed FY24 Budget. Total support and revenue for FY24 at \$35.4 million, up nearly \$6 million dollars over the FY23 budget. Total expenses are \$34.4 million, giving OHC a net surplus of \$973K or 2.75%. The GRF is nearly \$16.2 million dollars coming directly to OHC. There are several funding lines in the state GRF budget. A handful of funding lines pass through our organization to other organizations. The GRF is 29.1% increase, World Heritage in year one is \$1.2 million, Education and Collections is up 11.7%, sites and museums is up 18.2%; state historic preservation office is up 179.2%. NAAMCC up 35.8%, contributions \$3,000,000, part of this is the projected annual fund of \$500,000. Includes a 27% increase for our site partners, in total that expenditure for the organization makes up 7% of our total operating cost. Salaries and benefits make up 70% of our operating cost. Built into this is a 3% COLA. Moving to self-funding healthcare and having stop-loss insurance in place to protect OHC from extraordinary costs.

Mr. Moses accepted a motion from the Finance Committee to approve the FY24 budget. Motion unanimously approved.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

Trustee and Governance Committee

Have two new board members and the preliminary polls results look good. Will announce during the annual meeting. New members:

- Renu Ramankutty
- Betty Montgomery

Re-elected members

- Jen Miller – second term
- Melody Young - second term

Additional order of business at the annual meeting will be to elect board officers for another one-year term.

- President, Charley Moses
- Vice-President, Ann Bair
- Vice-President, Betty Weibel
- Treasurer, Melody Young
- Secretary, Alex Hastie

## **VII. New Business**

Mrs. Wood answered a question regarding the meaning of repatriation; through the federal law of NAGPRA repatriating is returning human remains of ancestors and associated funerary objects to federally recognized tribes. This happens when federally recognized tribes make a request of our organization to repatriate remains.

Ms. Velasquez inquired if there is a standard that non-profit organizations should have regarding fundraising.

Jeff Ward shared; he uses 6 months of available reserves; \$10-15 million dollar range for OHC.

Mrs. Wood announced that a reception will be held in the backyard of the Lustron House beginning at 3:30 pm and the annual meeting starts at 5:00 pm in the auditorium, followed by a party on the plaza.

## **VIII. Executive Session**

Mr. Moses requested a motion to recess into Executive Session, and the meeting convened in Executive Session at 2:14 p.m.

The Board emerged from Executive Session at 3:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Hastie, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles R. Moses, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared by Theresa Hopewood