

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 2021 - 1:00 pm
Harding Presidential Sites
Marion, Ohio

Trustees Present: Tom Chema (President), Jim Dicke (Vice President), Bob Lucas (Immediate Past President), Charles Moses (Vice President), Ellen Connally, Jon Elsasser, Alex Hastie, Jen Miller, Robert Roach, Betty Weibel (Vice President), Melody Young (Secretary), Ann Bair, Chief Billy Friend, Greg Simpson

Trustees Absent: Suhas Kakde (Treasurer), Loann Crane, Guadalupe Velasquez

Trustees on Phone: JB Hadden

EX Officios Present: Laura Battocletti (Director, Capital Square and Review Advisory Board), Gary Cates (Designee for Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education); Donna DeBlasio (President, Ohio Academy of History), Paolo DeMaria (Superintendent for Public Instruction), Mathew MacLaren (Designee for Director, Ohio Development Services Agency), Randy Gardner (Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents)

Ex Officio on Phone: Laura Lenese (Designee, Speaker of the Ohio House)

Staff & Others Present: Jen Aultman, Jen Cassidy, Theresa Hopewood, Todd Kleismit, Stacia Kuceyeski, Burt Logan, Wes Newhouse (General Counsel), Jamison Pack, Ann Ruege, Fred Smith, Amanda Terrell, Jeff Ward, Alex Wesaw, Megan Wood, Jen Cassidy

Staff Phone in: Chuck Wash, Ben Garcia, Jillian Ramage, Lauren Barber

I. Call to Order

President Tom Chema called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. He welcomed everyone for the first in-person meeting since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. New trustee Ann Bair was formerly introduced. Trustee Guadalupe Velasquez was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. He also welcomed the ex-officios that were able to attend. Mr. Chema recognized ex-officio Paolo DeMaria who was retiring and attending his final meeting.

Mr. Chema noted that an updated committee list for the current fiscal year has been provided for everyone. An electronic copy was sent to everyone the next day.

Mr. Chema announced the premier of a 40-minute documentary on President Warren Harding that will air in October on the Ohio Channel. He thanked Steve George for his leadership, Betty Weibel for her collaboration and narration, and the entire marketing team for coordinating this documentary.

II. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director and CEO Burt Logan thanked all of the staff for their monumental efforts to make the Harding Presidential Sites a reality. Tours will be given after the board meeting and formal recognitions will take place during the evening reception, before dinner. All that you will see in the new Visitor Center and the restored home has been the work of our Ohio History Connection staff, with the exception of construction. He also recognized and thanked the staff for the work that continues throughout the organization and across the state, as detailed in the division reports included in the meeting packet.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Chema noted that there are two action items: approval of the June 23, 2021 Board of Trustees minutes and approval of changes to several personnel policies which the Executive Committee reviewed and is recommending in its role as the Human Resources Committee. The consent agenda was approved as published.

IV. Strategic Plan

Ann Ruege gave an update on the Making History Together campaign, which includes three strategic priorities: Ohio Village, World Heritage, and Operational Endowment.

Accomplishments to date:

- Campaign structure completed
- Received board approval reshaping of the campaign
- Created targeted list for first meeting
- Raised 1.5 million dollars
- Assigned campaign champions that will be working with
- Hired new donor relations manager, Anthony Gibbs from the Outreach department
- Hired a new administrative assistant, Vanessa Gabrielle.

The new Making History Together video was shared with Trustees following the Board meeting.

A special dinner will be held on December 11 as part of Dickens of a Christmas in the Ohio Village. The purpose of the event will be to build and strengthen relationships for the comprehensive campaign. Please submit by mid-October any recommendations of guests to invite.

PS&L Committee

Chair Jen Miller reported on the FY24/FY25 capital budget request: \$15 million for ongoing capital needs across the historic site system and at the Ohio History Center; and \$5 million as a one-time request for storage units and shelving to outfit the new collection storage facility. The list of final projects and numbers were the result of extensive input and planning with each historic site and site management partners.

Mr. Chema asked for approval of the capital budget, which was unanimous.

Fundraising Committee

Ms. Ruege thanked Chair Bob Lucas again for the call of action in contacting donors. Mr. Lucas expressed his appreciation for members and Trustees who have participated in making the thank-you calls. There are plenty of names and telephone numbers available for trustees that are able to make calls.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business

IX. Executive Session

Mr. Chema called the meeting into Executive Session at 1:39 p.m.

The Board emerged from Executive Session at 2:25 pm

XI. Adjournment

There was no additional business and the Board adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Melody Young, Secretary

Date

Thomas V. Chema, President

Date

Prepared by Theresa Hopewood