

Minutes

Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors | Quarterly Meeting
Chesapeake Event Center - Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 and
Zoom Teleconference: Webinar ID: 821 6029 1894 | Passcode: 062172
Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Deena Fisher

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Deena Fisher at 1:36 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

2. Pledge of allegiance

3. Roll call – Trait Thompson

Board members present: Jack Baker, Teresa Black Bradway, Deena Fisher, Dan Lawrence, Neal Leader, Alan Loeffler, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, James Waldo, Weldon Watson, and Allen Wright

Board members present via Zoom: Ford Drummond, Cheryl Evans, Ann Hargis, Karen Keith, Patricia Loughlin, Terry Mabrey, Dallas Mayer, Donna Sharpe, and Kenny Sivard

Board members excused: Harold Aldridge, Randy Beutler, Duke Ligon, Jonita Mullins, and Bill Settle

4. Presentation of service pins – Trait Thompson

Trait Thompson present the following staff members with pins for their service and dedication to the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS):

Chad Williams, Director of Research – 20 years

Patricia Smith, Director of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum – 25 years

Valerie Duncan, Director of the Museums and Historic Homes Department – 30 years

Laura Martin, Deputy Director of Research – 30 years

Dennis Peterson, Director of Spiro Mound Archaeological Center – 35 years

Brian Basore, Senior Library Technician – 40 years

5. Discussion and possible approval of board minutes

a. January 27, 2021, quarterly meeting

b. March 24, 2021, special meeting

Neal Leader moved to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2021, quarterly board meeting and the March 24, 2021, special meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Lawrence. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's report – Terry Howard

Terry Howard stated that the OHS has \$2,137,509.94 in cash at the State Treasurer's Office. The OHS has \$200,553.84 invested in a Salomon Smith Barney account. This was originally a \$150,000 investment. The OHS has \$133,075.98 invested at Federated from an original investment of \$150,000. The OHS has \$2,877,822.62 invested in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Endowment Fund. The total cash and invested funds of the OHS amount to \$5,348,962.38.

7. Executive Director's report – Trait Thompson

a. Review of budget projections and expenditures from the third quarter (January 1 to March 31)

Terry Howard explained how, overall, the organization is doing well financially. Due to the soft hiring freeze, the personnel funds are holding steady. The staff vacancies are beginning to fill, but there will still be funds left over to carry into FY22. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) reduced the information technology (IT) costs by a significant amount. There is 4.74 percent remaining in bond funds, which equates to \$486,123 and not the actual amount in the OKPOP fund. The earned revenue had a significant decrease. The organization is sitting around 60 percent of the usual earned revenue. The Research Division was the only one not affected by the financial decrease in revenue caused by the pandemic. Federal, private, and friends group funds are right on track for this quarter.

b. Update on legislative session and the upcoming budget prospects

Trait Thompson relayed to the board about his conversations with the Appropriations Subcommittee chair. He had asked for \$1.1 million to cover the lost revenue due to the pandemic. In response, the legislature asked if we could lower our asking amount, and we did lower it to \$900,000. They were willing to accept this amount, which would be for one-time expenditures. Mr. Thompson assured the board that the \$20 million bond is still being pursued for OKPOP and the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

8. Presentation on State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Programs

Lynda Ozan, the deputy director of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), explained to the board an overview of SHPO, Section 106, and the National Register for Historic Places.

9. Presentation of new Social Media Enhancement Project

Trait Thompson spoke about the new Social Media Enhancement Project. He stated how social media is the best way to reach people and the most cost effective. The OHS is working to enhance the social media presence at all sites. The Social Media team consists of Evelyn Moxley, Jacob Krumweide, Adam Lynn, Jennifer Frazee, Kathy Dickson, Nicole Harvey, and Dr. Elizabeth Bass.

Evelyn Moxley shared a presentation with the board on how the OHS uses social media for marketing. She explained how she manages the Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts for the OHS and how there are 56 active accounts across the museums and sites.

Patricia Loughlin praised Mrs. Moxley and the work she has put into the project.

10. Notification of declaration of emergency at the White Hair Memorial

The board was notified of the declaration of emergency at the White Hair Memorial. During the extreme freezing temperatures in February, the pump froze up and when it was restarted, the staff discovered line breaks at the site. No board action was taken.

11. New business

There was no new business.

12. Announcements

Dan Lawrence announced that, in the last six months, the OHS has experienced the retirement of Dr. Blackburn and the hiring of Trait Thompson. Dr. Lawrence worked in the public sector for years and had never seen a smoother transition than what he has seen at the OHS. He found it truly remarkable. It is a testament to the staff and to the board. He wanted to make note and thank everyone for their hard work.

Jack Baker informed the board about a publication, *Records of the Moravians Among the Cherokees*, from the Cherokee Heritage Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with which the OHS assisted. The Moravian missionaries were prolific writers and storytellers. The issue was the stories they received from them were written in German script. It all had to be translated into English. The Cherokee paid to do the translations. It was supposed to be about six volumes. They are now at volume ten and only a third of the way completed. The original designer of the book cover was unable to continue the work for the newer volumes and Jennifer Towry, web and visual communications manager for the OHS, helped create the new covers. Mr. Baker wanted to thank Ms. Towry for her work and donate volumes five through ten to the OHS Research Center in honor of Jennifer Towry.

13. Adjournment

Neal Leader moved to adjourn the quarterly meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Deena Fisher at 2:45 p.m.