

Minutes

Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors, Quarterly Meeting
Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

1. Call to order – President Jack Baker

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Jack Baker at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

2. Pledge of allegiance

3. Roll call – Bob Blackburn

Board members present: Jack Baker, Sherry Beasley, Teresa Black Bradway, John Cary, Cheryl Evans, Deena Fisher, Karen Keith, Dan Lawrence, Neal Leader, Duke Ligon, Patricia Loughlin, Terry Mabrey, Dallas Mayer, Jonita Mullins, Shirley Nero, William Settle, Donna Sharpe, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and James Waldo

Board members excused: Harold Aldridge, Frederick Drummond, Billie Fogarty, Leonard Logan (participated via phone), and Kenneth Sivard (participated via phone)

4. Presentation of service pins – Bob Blackburn

Dr. Bob Blackburn presented Ed Taylor with his thirty-five-year service pin and Jeff Briley with his forty-year service pin.

5. Echoes of History – Bob Blackburn

Dr. Blackburn spoke about putting the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program into context. He noted that, beginning in the 1970s, the OHS would receive “pass-through funds,” which were funds that would be appropriated to the OHS but then be contracted out to other organizations not operated by the state. Many times there was no vetting of these organizations; they were typically “pork” projects. However, by July 2000 an agreement was made that these pass-through funds must be approved by the OHS Board of Directors. Over time, these pass-through funds lessened and eventually went away. Previously, the OHS did not have a system in place for providing a grant to a nonstate entity. But today through transparency, written rules, and weighted criteria, we have made progress in how we can distribute funds to nonprofit entities in need.

6. Approval of minutes from the October 23, 2019, Quarterly Board Meeting

Duke Ligon moved to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2019, Quarterly Board Meeting. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Treasurer's report – Shirley Nero

Shirley Nero stated that the Oklahoma Historical Society has \$2,443,339.51 in cash at the State Treasurer’s Office. The OHS has \$200,591.93 invested in a Salomon Smith Barney

account. This was originally a \$150,000 investment. The OHS has \$137,982.28 invested at Federated with an original investment of \$150,000. The OHS has \$2,475,001 invested in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Endowment Fund. The total cash and invested funds of the OHS amount to \$5,256,914.72.

8. Executive Director's report – Bob Blackburn and Terry Howard

- a. Review of budget projections and expenditures from the second quarter (October 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019)

Terry Howard reviewed the projections and expenditures from the second quarter, noting overhead small surplus and that we were on track for this time of year.

- b. Review of communication with legislative and executive branches

Dr. Blackburn spoke of the current strong communication ties between the OHS and the legislative and executive branches. Looking forward, the new executive director of the OHS should be aware of political trends and maintain those relationships.

- c. Presentation of OHS Cost/Benefit Analysis

Dr. Blackburn presented the Cost/Benefit Analysis to the board for the third year, noting its usefulness in discussing budgets, where the OHS could improve, and where the OHS could find savings.

9. Consideration of a partnership to curate, design, and install a museum exhibit in the Oklahoma State Capitol

Dan Provo spoke of the agreement with Capitol Restoration Project for the OHS to design exhibits for the 4,400 square feet of space in the Capitol Museum and to oversee the installation of the artifacts.

Trait Thompson, project manager of the Capitol Restoration Project, informed the OHS Board of Directors of the direction they are going with the restoration.

Cheryl Evans moved to approve a partnership to curate, design, and install a museum exhibit in the Oklahoma State Capitol. Seconded by Shirley Nero, the motion passed unanimously.

10. Consideration of project status and options to deal with cash flow deadlines to complete OKPOP

Jeff Moore, executive director of OKPOP, updated the board on the schedule of OKPOP construction and the status of collections. David Davis, director of operations for OKPOP, then spoke about the process for concept design and exhibit development.

Dr. Blackburn asked the board to consider authorizing a legislative request for funds for OKPOP through the issuance of a bond to finish the exhibits and architecture.

Karen Keith moved to authorize Dr. Blackburn to ask the legislature for funds for OKPOP to finish the exhibits and architecture. Seconded by John Cary, the motion passed unanimously.

11. Consideration of assignments to the Executive Director Search Committee

President Jack Baker appointed Karen Keith, Deena Fisher, Jim Waldo, and Leonard Logan to be on the Search Committee along with himself. James Waldo will serve as the chair for the committee.

John Cary moved to approve the assignments to the Executive Director Search Committee. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Consideration of final selections for the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program, for distribution of grants to local historical groups

Nicole Harvey gave the OHS Board of Directors a summation of the grants program's first year, including the application process and two-level review process.

James Waldo moved to approve the final selections for the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program for distribution of grants to local historical groups on behalf of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Selection Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Consideration of opening the permanent rulemaking process to consider amended rules for the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program

Nicole Harvey discussed a few topics that had been brought up by applicants, reviewers, and the committee that should be changed in the administrative rules for next year.

Neal Leader moved to open the permanent rulemaking process to consider amended rules for the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grants Program. Seconded by Deena Fisher, the motion passed unanimously.

14. Consideration of possible action to enter into Executive Session under 25 O.S. Section 307 (B)(1) to discuss evaluation of executive director

a. Vote to enter executive session

James Waldo moved to enter into Executive Session under 25 O.S. Section 307 (B)(1) to discuss evaluation of executive director. Seconded by Shirley Nero, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Vote to return to open session

John Cary moved to return to open session. Seconded by Shirley Nero, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting then continued in open session.

c. Possible action on matters discussed in executive session

No action was taken.

15. Consideration of declaring Boggy Depot State Park and Cemetery as surplus property and transferring title to the Chickasaw Nation for fair market value

Kathy Dickson discussed the background of the Boggy Depot State Park and Cemetery. The Chickasaw Nation has been maintaining the land for the last five years, and now the OHS would like to declare this land surplus to facilitate its transfer to the Chickasaw Nation.

James Waldo on behalf of the Museums and Sites Committee, moved to approve the item. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Consideration of changes to fee structures and OHS policies:

a. Admissions policy for the Oklahoma History Center

Dan Provo spoke about the proposed changes in fees for the Oklahoma History Center. These changes included adjusting the admission rates for the following categories:

Category	Current	Proposed
Adults:	\$7	\$10
Student:	\$4	\$5
Family (up to 6)	\$18	\$25
Group rate (10+)	\$5 ea	\$7 ea

Neal Leader moved to change the admissions policy for the Oklahoma History Center. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Social Media Policy

Evelyn Moxley discussed the OHS's Social Media Policy and how she has updated it to relate to present-day social media platforms and state guidelines.

Dallas Meyer moved to update the Social Media Policy. Seconded by Dan Lawrence, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Research Collections Policy

Chad Williams noted that the changes to the Research Collections Policy would be tabled until the next Quarterly Board Meeting.

Charles Tate moved to table the changes to the Research Collections Policy until the next Quarterly Board Meeting. Seconded by Neal Leader, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Will Rogers Memorial Museum rental fee

Tad Jones brought up the popularity of elopement weddings, and noted that they have the space to hold such events at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. The proposed fee would be a base rate of \$600 for three hours and allow for the use of the Will Rogers Theatre and Vista Gallery. Each additional hour would be \$100. The package would allow for a maximum of seventy-five guests.

Deena Fisher moved to charge a rental fee for elopement weddings at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion passed unanimously.

17. Notification of Declaration of Emergency at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum on December 5, 2019, due to a leak in the cast iron water supply

The OHS Board of Directors was notified of the Declaration of Emergency at Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum. No action was taken.

18. New business

Dan Lawrence presented to the board another check to complete his pledge to the OHS endowment fund. James Waldo and the Museums and Sites Committee commended Kathy Dickson and her staff for the Standards and Best Practices Guide.

19. Adjournment

Neal Leader moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dan Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Baker at 4:03 p.m.