

## MINUTES

Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors  
Special Meeting  
Oklahoma History Center  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 and  
Zoom Video/Tele Conference  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:30 p.m.

**1. Call to Order—President Jack Baker**

The special meeting was called to order by President Jack Baker at 1:38 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Because this was a Zoom video/teleconference, the board did not perform the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Announcement of OHS Board election results—Leonard Logan**

Larry O'Dell announced the results of the OHS Board elections as follows: District 5—Jack Baker of Oklahoma City; District 6—Deena Fisher of Woodward; At-Large—Teresa Black Bradway of Clayton, Kenny Sivard of Idabel, and Randy Beutler of Weatherford.

**4. Swearing in of new OHS board members**

Judge Charles Tate swore in the new OHS board members.

**5. Roll call—Bob Blackburn**

Board members present: Jack Baker and Bill Settle

Board members present via video/teleconference: Sherry Beasley, Randy Beutler, Teresa Black Bradway, John Cary, Deena Fisher, Karen Keith, Dan Lawrence, Neal Leader, Duke Ligon, Leonard Logan, Patricia Loughlin, Terry Mabrey, Dallas Mayer, Jonita Mullins, Shirley Nero, Donna Sharpe, Kenneth Sivard, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and James Waldo

Board members excused: Harold Aldridge, Frederick Drummond, and Cheryl Evans

**6. Echoes of History—Bob Blackburn**

Dr. Blackburn referred back to the Quarterly Board Meeting of January 25, 2006, in order to find a meeting in which the OHS was doing something new, just like today is something new with this meeting taking place via Zoom. On this date, the board met for the first time in the current Oklahoma History Center Boardroom. One item on that meeting's agenda was the status of the move to the History Center. The chaos of the move mirrors some of the chaos that we are now experiencing in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time of chaos the OHS was able to overcome with hard work and perseverance. Similarly, the OHS will come through this period of chaos with flying colors.

**7. Approval of minutes from the January 22, 2020, Quarterly Board Meeting**

Neal Leader moved to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2020, Quarterly Board Meeting.

Seconded by Karen Keith and following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**8. Treasurer's report—Shirley Nero**

Shirley Nero stated that the Oklahoma Historical Society has \$2,405,364.25 in at the State Treasurer's Office. The OHS has \$200,603.82 invested in a Salomon Smith Barney account. This was originally a \$150,000 investment. The OHS has \$132,189.23 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 \$5,213,158.30.

**9. Executive Director's report—Bob Blackburn and Terry Howard**

a) Review of budget projections and expenditures from the third quarter (January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020)

Terry Howard reviewed the projections and expenditures from the third quarter, noting that the OHS will be reimbursed for the power line relocation in Tulsa related to the OKPOP construction and that the budget is on track for this time of year.

b) Review of OHS project highlights

Dr. Blackburn noted that the Museums and Sites Division has continued working on replacing trail markers at Honey Springs Battlefield. The staff at the Oklahoma History Center has moved the Huey helicopter utilized for the Vietnam exhibit outside to be an exterior display. More than 7,500 Oklahoma students participated in the National History Day contest, and grantees have executed their grants contracts for the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

c) Review of the legislative session

Dr. Blackburn stated there was no bond issue for OKPOP this legislative session due to COVID-19. The OHS was able to keep \$320,000 from one-time funds and was able to get \$410,000 extra in one-time funds as relief funding for revenue lost due to the pandemic.

d) Review of actions taken to deal with the COVID-19 crisis

Dr. Blackburn spoke of the steps the OHS had taken in protecting its employees and volunteers during the COVID-19 crisis. Those steps included the employees teleworking, those in the office are social distancing and required to wear a mask, there is no public access to OHS facilities until June 1, and all OHS programs and events have been canceled through July 31.

**10. Consideration of a job description to recruit candidates for the Executive Director position**

James Waldo, chair of the Executive Director Search Committee, shared with the board the draft of the job opening announcement for the executive director position. Mr. Waldo moved to approve the draft on behalf of the committee. Neal Leader suggested adding the employment starting date of January 4, 2021, to the announcement. Mr. Waldo agreed. The amended motion was seconded by Deena Fisher. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**11. Consideration of budget allocations for fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021)**

Dr. Blackburn spoke of the 4 percent cut in appropriations, but added that any structural changes will be deferred until the full financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is realized. He also

stated that the OHS will be implementing a soft hiring freeze, limiting travel, and deferring high-cost projects.

Sherry Beasley left at 2:56 p.m. and was not included in further votes.

## **12. Election of new officers for the OHS Board of Directors**

### a) Treasurer

Leonard Logan nominated Karen Keith as treasurer. Shirley Nero seconded the nomination. Bill Settle moved to cease the nominations and Barbara Thompson seconded ceasing nominations. Following a roll call vote, Karen Keith was unanimously elected as the treasurer of the OHS Board of Directors.

### b) Vice President

Kenny Sivard nominated Shirley Nero as vice president. Karen Keith seconded the nomination. Neal Leader moved to cease nominations. Leonard Logan seconded ceasing nominations. Following a roll call vote, Shirley Nero was unanimously elected as the vice president of the OHS Board of Directors.

### c) President

James Waldo nominated Deena Fisher. The motion was seconded by Neal Leader. Barbara Thompson moved to accept by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Dallas Mayer. Following a roll call vote, Deena Fisher was unanimously elected president of the OHS Board of Directors.

## **13. Consideration of committee assignments**

President Deena Fisher assigned James Waldo, Shirley Nero, Karen Keith, Jack Baker, Leonard Logan, Duke Ligon, Donna Sharpe, and Randy Beutler to the Executive Committee. President Fisher stated that all other committee assignments are to remain as they are until the July board meeting.

Jack Baker moved to approve the committee assignments. Seconded by Teresa Black Bradway and followed by a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

## **14. Notification of Declarations of Emergency**

Pursuant to 61 O.S. 2014 § 130(E), Dr. Blackburn notified the board of declarations of emergency at the following OHS sites: Overholser Mansion had a roof leak on April 10, 2020; OKPOP had a fuel tank removed at the construction site on April 10, 2020; and the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum had a complete overhaul of its fire system because the motherboard failed in the old one on March 24, 2020. No action was taken.

## **15. Announcements**

Leonard Logan wanted to bring the board's attention to the fact that the three new officers of the OHS Board of Directors are women, which in his memory is the first time this has occurred. He congratulated them on this historic occasion.

Shirley Nero announced the tours of the All-Black towns was being held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tour can be found on YouTube. This will be the first virtual All-Black

towns tour.

**16. Adjournment**

Shirley Nero moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Teresa Black Bradway and followed by a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Fisher at 3:23 p.m.