

**The Ohio Historical Society
Board of Trustees**

Thursday, March 9, 2006 – 10:30 a.m.
(Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio)

Trustees Present: Patricia Eldredge (President), Grant Douglas (Vice resident), Richard Ruppert (Vice President), Marian Vance (Secretary), Robert H. Jeffrey (Treasurer), David Baker, Marnie C. Black (via phone), Joyce E. Brown, Cathy Crain, Jon Elsasser, Bob Goldberg, Linda Herrnstein, George Kulchytsky, Joseph Leonard, Neil Mortine, Ted Prasse, Mac Stewart

Trustees Absent: Nancy Dix, Ann Lowder

Ex Officio Trustees Present:

Ann Aquillo (representing Governor Taft), Claudia Vecchio (representing Ohio Dept. of Development), Abby Gilbert (representing Rep. Joyce Beatty), Rich Simpson, Michael Herschler, William Muthig

Staff Present: William Laidlaw, Rachel Tooker, Todd Kleismit, Melanie Nye, Jim Strider, George Kane, Ron Bednar, Scott Mueller, Glenn Peters, Fritz Milligan (Attorney), and Beth Gilmartin (Secretary)

I. Key Issues

Glenn Peters reported on how the Ohio Historical Society services Ohio's K-12 Teachers and Students.

II. Call to Order – President Eldredge called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. and welcomed Abby Gilbert to the meeting as a representative for Representative Joyce Beatty.

President's Report – President Eldredge reported to the Board on the controversy over the upcoming dismantlement of the First Ohioan's exhibit. Much of the controversy has been with the Archeology Society of Ohio. Bill Laidlaw, Rachel Tooker, and Jim Strider all met with representatives from this organization and a report on this meeting will be addressed by Bill Laidlaw. She also highlighted her trip with Bill Laidlaw and Rachel Tooker to the Minnesota Historical Society in January, the recent Statehood Day event, and the upcoming trip to Washington D.C. to lobby for historic preservation.

Executive Director's Report

Bill Laidlaw reported to the Board that a new Marketing Director, Beth Case, has been hired and will start March 20th. He also reported that Shaklee is donating 30% of their proceeds of products sold from their website to the Society's Fort Ancient site. He discussed the upcoming Tiffin Awards and that the nominations need to be in by the end of March. He reported about the deaccessioning decisions being made by the staff and that most of the items are newspapers that have already been microfilmed.

He also reported on a number of collaborative arrangements including: CSRAB to improve exhibits beneath the Statehouse; the Country Club and Moonrise Committee in Newark to improve communications and to establish a Fall 2006 date to observe the moonrise in alignment with the mounds; the Governor's residence to procure funds for the upkeep of the Governor's residence and grounds; Experience Columbus to include the Society on their VIP Discount Cards.

1. Strategic Issues

Mission/Values/Vision, SWOT, Core Competencies

Action: Linda HerrNSTein made a motion to approve the Mission, Values, and Vision statements and Cathy Crain seconded that motion.

During the discussion Jon Elssasser moved an amendment to the wording of the Vision Statement taking out the words "as one of" so that the statement reads "OHS will be recognized the nation's most effective statewide advocate for history through its partnerships, leadership and a full array of history related services." Linda HerrNSTein seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Motion was made by Cathy Crain to accept SWOT and Core Competencies. It was seconded by Jon Elssasser and approved by the Board unanimously.

FY 2006 Financial Status

Ron Bednar gave an update on financial report based on its status through January 31, 2006

FY 2007 Budget Assumptions

Ron Bednar reviewed the assumptions and there was some discussion by Board members. These budget assumptions will be used as a basis for preparing the FY 2007 Budget to be presented to the Board in June.

FY 2008/09 Biennial Operating Budget Request Strategy

Rachel Tooker announced to the Board that instead of submitting the FY 2008/09 Biennial Operating Budget in July it now appears we won't have to submit it until the Fall. The assumptions and general outline will be presented to the Board in June.

Accreditation

Rachel Tooker explained in considerable detail the rationale, the process, and schedule for accreditation that will last for approximately 3 years starting in November 2006. Areas to receive greatest attention will likely be strategic planning, collections, financial management, and governance. Progress of this process is reported to the Board on a regular basis.

2. Policy and Action Items

Auditor Selection

Motion was made by Bob Goldberg to accept Rea & Associates, Inc., as the auditor of Ohio Historical Society for the next four years subject to approval by the State Auditor's office. David Baker seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Compensation Strategy and Health Plan

Melanie Nye spoke to the Board on behalf of Marnie Black and presented some of the issues that face management regarding the compensation strategy and health plan for the Society.

3. Reports

Statehood Day

Ted Prasse reported on the Statehood Day event hosted by the Society. There were over 100 participants who were recognized by the Speaker in a session at the Ohio House of Representatives. The volunteers broke into smaller groups and met with their legislators. The event was deemed a success and will be repeated in the future. Mr. Prasse also asked the Board for their thoughts on how the Society could communicate with the gubernatorial candidates.

Fundraising Progress from Development Board

Rich Simpson gave a detailed report on the fundraising progress through January 31, 2006.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair Bob Goldberg reported on the work of the committee to date. A nomination has been sent to the Governor to fill the Bill Block vacancy. A notice soliciting nominees appears in the current newsletter.

Physical Structures & Locations

Committee Chairman Dick Ruppert announced that the Ohio Department of Transportation has decided to move forward with a bridge over the expressway that will connect with our Fort Laurens property. The Executive Committee may be asked to pass and approve an easement at its next meeting.

4. Consent Agenda

Ted Prasse made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Bob Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Other Business

Meeting with Archaeology Society of Ohio

Bill Laidlaw reported on the meeting he, Rachel Tooker, and Jim Strider had with representatives of the Archaeology Society of Ohio.

“REV” It Up

Rachel Tooker updated the Board members on the “REV” It Up project.

6. Executive Session

Neil Mortine moved the Board go into Executive Session, Cathy Crain seconded and the motion was approved.