

**The Ohio Historical Society  
Board of Trustees  
Friday, April 11, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.  
Ohio Historical Center – Classrooms 1 & 2**

**Trustees Present:** Richard Ruppert (President), Jon Elsasser (Vice President), Marian Vance (Secretary), Marnie C. Black, Jan Devereaux, Grant Douglass, Bob Goldberg, Glenda Greenwood, Linda Herrnstein, Priscilla Mead, Neil Mortine, Ted Prasse, Rich Simpson, Mac Stewart, Rod Willcox and Lucy Porter (Emeritae)

Via Teleconference: George Jones & Pat Eldredge (Emeritae)

**Regrets:** David Baker (Vice President), Tom Johnson (Treasurer), Joseph Leonard & Ann Lowder

**Ex Officio's**

**Present:** Dan Baker (representing Speaker of the House), Marjorie Campbell (representing House Minority Leader), Amir Eylon (representing Ohio Department of Development), Michael Herschler (representing Ohio Academy of Science), Lindsey Stewart (representing Senate Minority Leader), William Muthig (representing Ohio Department of Education) and Jeff Ruppert (representing Governor's Office)

**Staff Present:** Bill Laidlaw, Rachel Tooker, Jackie Barton, Connie Bodner, Ronnie Campo (Interim CFO), Beth Case, George Kane, Todd Kleismit, Jeri Kozobarich, Melanie Nye, Jim Strider, Janet Cole CPS /CAP and Fritz Milligan (Legal Counsel)

**I. Call to Order:**

**President's Report** – President Ruppert called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Dr. Ruppert welcomed trustees. He noted the most important agenda item today would be to approve the FY09 Budget.

**Executive Director's Report** – Executive Director Bill Laidlaw thanked the Management team and administrative assistants for their diligence and hard work in preparing the FY09 budget proposal being submitted for approval by the board today. Dr. Laidlaw encouraged board members to contact Ohio Congressional Representatives Pryce, Kaptur, Space and Schmidt for earmarking for the storage facility at OHS. He noted May is the month Ohio celebrates Historic Preservation Month. He also congratulated Rich Simpson and his firm Bricker & Eckler for receiving the 2008 Corporate Caring Award yesterday for medium sized firms.

## II. FINANCE:

**Eight Months Actuals** — Ronnie Campo, Interim CFO, recapped the eight months actuals and FY08 forecast. Ms. Campo reported for the month of February, revenue exceeded expenses creating a surplus of \$312.700 which was decreased by the net realized and unrealized losses on our investments of (\$458.000) for a net deficit for the month of (\$455.4). If vacancies were filled, this would further increase the deficit. Year to date the Society showed a negative bottom line of (\$142.700). Ms. Campo reported the FY08 Forecast of Operations was achieved through a variety of methods and forecasts and expanded further how these methods would produce a balanced budget for FY08.

**FY2009 Budget** — Dr. Laidlaw recapped in a PowerPoint presentation the board's requests, support and priorities that arose from the previous February 15, 2008 board meeting. Dr. Laidlaw expanded on the restructuring proposal in respect to programmatic investments being asked of the board. He noted unfortunately that there would be 26 employees eliminated, 21 vacant positions not filled, reduced operations in 11 sites and OHS would work with local historical societies to transfer the operations of 4 sites. OHS will designate seven locations as regional centers across Ohio: (1) Adena in Chillicothe, (2) Fort Ancient in Oregonia, (3) Campus Martius in Marietta, (4) Armstrong Space Museum in Wapakoneta, (5) Fort Meigs in Perrysburg, (6) Piqua Historical Center in Piqua, and (7) Zoar Village in Zoar. OHS will implement a \$1 admission fee increase effective April 25, 2008 at many locations. School fees will remain the same. He reported these efforts will be made in an effort to reduce the projected \$2 million deficit in the 2009 budget and the \$0.3 million shortfall in FY08.

OHS will slow the rate of processing collections for public use and reduce the inventory capacity. This change will affect Ohio's Archives and Library. Dr. Laidlaw indicated restructured priorities if approved by the board would include increasing Web access, access to the archives and library and continuing improvements in state and local government archival services.

Dr. Laidlaw noted there would be no funds available to offer employee retirement incentives but there would be a small severance package for employees whose jobs are eliminated. Finalization of restructuring should be in place by the end of June.

There was discussion about the various options for restructuring: costs of subsidizing mandates and the long term effects for OHS; collections management vs. education and interpretation priorities; and collections management vs. exhibits. The board requested a cost analysis for state mandated functions performed by OHS. Dr. Laidlaw noted these topics will need to be discussed at the next Planning & Assessment retreat which would provide future direction to staff for FY10 & 11 Operating budgets. The board asked for some improvement in the planning and process for the next retreat over the previous year's process.

The board requested a report on the Development Board and Institutional Advancement's future fundraising goals and plans.

### **III. Consent Agenda:**

President Ruppert asked if anyone had questions regarding the consent agenda. Hearing none, Rod Willcox moved that all items in the consent agenda be approved. Mac Stewart seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Actions:**

Motion to approve the February 15, 2008 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Human Resources Committee's recommendations to approve and adopt the three EIM Policy Statements (Policy #4-3— Family Medical Leave Policy; Policy #6-6— Life Threatening, Communicable and/or Debilitating Conditions Policy and Policy #6-7—Protected Health Information (PHI) – Privacy Rights Policy) to be effective April 15, 2008. Motion carried.

The board moved into Executive Session at 11:13 a.m.

The board reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

Ted Prasse moved and Marnie Black seconded the motion to approve the FY09 Operating Budget. Motion carried.

Dr. Laidlaw announced that the Office of Budget & Management (OBM) within the last two days had notified the Society that the Governor's capital budget will include \$5 million dollars for OHS, including \$1.24 million toward the collections storage facility. This request has forced the Society to reprioritize projects based on the revised budget allocation. Staff reviewed the priorities and proposes keeping all but one of the top 11 priority requests and reducing the scope and amount of almost all of them. The President called for a motion to approve the revised FY-9-10 Capital Request. Priscilla Mead moved to approve the revised FY09-10 Capital Request. Neil Mortine seconded and the motion carried.

There being no business further required, Bob Goldberg moved the board meeting be adjourned at 11:47 p.m. Rod Willcox seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Education Session – Review of the Central Ohio Sites**

George Kane introduced Bill Merriman, President of the Westerville Historical Society and Ned Thomas, a volunteer at the Hanby House. Mr. Kane gave an informational overview of Hanby House, Shrum Mound at Campbell Park and Wapatomica. The education session adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Cole CPS/CAP.

