

**The Ohio Historical Society
Board of Trustees**

Friday, October 6, 2006 – 12:30 p.m.
(Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio)

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

Trustees Absent: George Kulchytsky and George Jones

Ex Officio Trustees Present:

Ann Aquillo (representing Governor Taft), Jamie Abel (representing Ohio Board of Regents), Vanessa Dindino (representing Senate President – Bill Harris), Michael Herschler (representing Ohio Academy of Science), William Muthig (representing Ohio Department of Education), Jim Greenhalge (representing Ohio Dept. of Development), Shana Weber (representing Senate Minority Leader C.J. Prentiss) and Rich Simpson (representing OHS Development Board)

Staff Present: Bill Laidlaw, Rachel Tooker, Ron Bednar, Sara Bendure, Beth Case, Jelain Chubb, Julie Hughes, George Kane, Todd Kleismit, Scott Mueller, Melanie Nye, Jim Strider, Janet Cole CPS and Fritz Milligan (Legal Counsel)

President's Report – President Eldredge called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Mrs. Eldredge welcomed ex officio Jim Greenhalge from the Ohio Department of Development, Shana Weber from Senate Minority Leader C. J. Prentiss' office and OHS staff member Julie Hughes, acting director of the Museums Division.

President Eldredge in her report announced four trustee's terms ended at this meeting and that Joyce Brown, Nancy Dix, George Kulchytsky and herself would be leaving the board. President Eldredge thanked these trustees for their service and dedication over their terms of service. President Eldredge noted that planning was her primary goal/agenda for her year serving as board president. She summarized the progress made this year in the society's planning efforts which included a new strategic plan, a marketing plan and a collections strategic plan. Pat commended the board and staff for bringing the Society into the 21st century and providing a mission, vision and values for the Society.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Bill Laidlaw thanked Pat for her superb contributions as board president as she formulated an aggressive charge while leading the board and staff through a year of creating policy and strategic issues. Director Laidlaw commended the senior management team for their dedication, commitment and tireless efforts in assisting the board's commitment to move OHS forward by establishing strategic goals and initiatives for the future of the organization.

Dr. Laidlaw reviewed accomplishments for the past fiscal year by sharing final results of the society's newly created metrics reports. He reported the most significant accomplishments included the establishment of: the "Rev It Up" initiative, the newly developed "windows to our collections" space in the museum, the Edward J Tiffin award, more user-friendly space in the Historical Center museum, the purchasing of an events tent for Ohio Village, improvements in the network infrastructure, and adding additional properties to the National Register ranking Ohio third in the country.

I. Strategic Policy/Issues

Planning & Assessment – Jon Elsasser thanked the committee and staff for all their hard work and efforts this year in developing the proposed strategic initiatives and goals. He reported while there are many goals and initiatives, objectives will be limited. Mr. Elsasser informed the board that metrics will be developed to measure the progress and success of these goals which will be used by the board to hold the director and staff accountable.

Jon Elsasser called for a motion to accept the proposed OHS strategic initiatives and goals. Dave Baker so moved, Cathy Crain seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee – Ron Bednar, CFO, reviewed the results of last fiscal year's financials. He reported the FY2006 audit is the same as previously reported to the Finance and Executive Committee, which is operating at a surplus of \$209,000 and a total change in net assets of \$840,000. The bound audited report will be mailed to trustees upon receipt from the auditor.

Mr. Bednar reviewed the financials for the first 2 months of FY07. He reported the Society is \$395,000 ahead of budget and revenue is \$104,000 behind budget this year. He asked trustees to note the change in the reporting of capital funds, at their request, is reflected in this report.

Mr. Bednar reviewed the proposed FY08-09 biennial operating budget at flat funding (100%) and a budget reflecting a 3% increase over the current biennium. An appeal was made to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) for funding at a 9% increase and was denied. Due to the appeal denial, staff have developed scenarios to balance the budget if funding is awarded at 100% or 103% levels. The outline of the executive

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director's cover letter for budget submission and consolidated budget projection for FY08-09 were also reviewed.

Jon Elsasser moved to approve the assumptions in the FY08-09 biennium budget submission. Ted Prasse seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Development Board Up-Date – Scott Mueller, Director of Institutional Advancement, gave an update on development activities in the absence of Development Chair, Rich Simpson. Mr. Mueller reported Dean Haberkamp, Diana Arthur, Rob Berger and Clark Pritchett, Jr. were nominated as Development Board trustees, to be approved in the consent agenda. Mr. Mueller gave highlights of the FY07 development goals for the annual fund, special projects, planned gifts and endowments. A special congratulation was given to trustee David Baker and OHS staff Andy Verhoff and Kathy Wyatt for their efforts in exceeding their goal in raising funds for the W.P. Snyder. Mr. Mueller gave a brief history and remarks regarding the sizeable bequest from Rosalie Paulis, and her love of history.

Collections Committee – Ann Lowder, Chair, announced the return of the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War flag to the Society's collections. She also noted at the same time the delivery of an Afro-American unit black brigade flag of Cincinnati was delivered in Maryland for conservation so the flag can be publicly displayed sometime in the future. OHS and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center are working together to raise funds for restoration of the black brigade flag.

Mrs. Lowder presented the draft of the collections strategic plan which supports several of the key strategic initiatives and related goals. The plan focuses on steps needed to be taken to enhance the Society's intellectual and physical control over its collections during the next five years. In addition the plan identifies steps to ensure the collections policies, procedures and actions meet the standards that will be necessary to ensure continued accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

Joyce Brown expressed concerns about deaccessioning collections. Jim Strider addressed her concerns and assured the board that the society's core responsibility is to preserve and manage collections.

The board expressed concerns about approving initiatives for accepting these strategic plans if funding is not received by the state to support these initiatives. The board agreed to accept the various motions but noted they would be subject to change if funding is not received.

David Baker so moved to approve the draft collections strategic plan presented by the staff. Cathy Crain seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Director Laidlaw informed the board the Society will be faced with tough choices in the next year if funding is not available to support the mandates OHS is required to fulfill and will direct our future decisions according to our collections management policy. Ms.

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Tooker reported staff are analyzing our mandates, costs involved and doing some benchmarking and determining what is an acceptable level of quality and standard of service.

Marketing – Neil Mortine, Chair, noted his appreciation to the marketing committee and marketing director, Beth Case, for their hard work and efforts in creating the draft marketing plan with the objective to support the Ohio Historical Society’s goals through the creation and implementation of marketing programs that build attendance, revenue and interest in the organization’s programs and services, and enhance the reputation of the organization as an asset to the people of Ohio. Mr. Mortine reviewed the executive summary of the marketing strategy.

Jon Elsasser moved to accept the strategic marketing plan. Marion Vance seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Physical Structures & Locations – Dick Ruppert, chair, reviewed the capital budget modifications and process. Dr. Ruppert called for a motion for the board to delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to review and approve any modifications to the Society’s FY07-08 capital budget request after review and approval by the Physical Structures and Locations Committee of staff’s recommendation as a result of negotiations with the Office of Budget and Management or the legislature before the passage of the bill and in the event of any major changes the capital budget request would come back to the Executive Committee for approval. Tad Jeffrey seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

II. Consent Agenda

President Eldredge asked if anyone had questions regarding the consent agenda. Hearing none, Ann Lowder moved that all items in the consent agenda be approved. Cathy Crain seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Added to the Consent Agenda at the board meeting was a recommendation from the Piqua Friends Council and the OHS staff to establish the Jefferson Patterson Endowment for the Piqua Historical Area in the amount of \$76,413.11 which originated from a bequest from Jefferson Patterson, a great grandson of John Johnston. Bob Goldberg moved to accept the recommendation to establish the Jefferson Patterson Endowment, Joyce Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Education Session

President Eldredge introduced Jelain Chubb, State Archivist, from the OHS Archives-Library Division who educated and enlightened trustees on the statistics as to where Ohio falls amongst other states (Ohio ranks last) in the country in regards to its state archives. Ms. Chubb expressed her concerns regarding the sobering challenges the OHS archives program faces due to lack of proper operating funds, resources and personnel. She

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acknowledged the high level of commitment from the director and the archives staff for continually striving to improve the archives-library operations. Ms. Chubb is encouraged that the Society will be able to help obtain some future grant funding for operations and project staff but does take time to seek appropriate funding.

Ann Aquillo acknowledged the hard work on the part of the archives staff in transferring the governor's papers to our archives and was complimentary to the staff's efforts in this important historical transfer of documents.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. and the board moved into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Cole CPS.