**OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 2, 2023 – 1:00 pm**

**Ohio Statehouse - Stateroom**

**Trustees Present:** Charles Moses (President), Ann Bair (Vice President), Betty Weibel (Vice President), Melody Young (Treasurer), Alex Hastie (Secretary), Chief Billy Friend, Steve Coon, Jon Elsasser, Jen Miller, Bob Roach, Rich Hillis, Anthony Joseph, Guadalupe Velasquez

**Trustees Absent:** Greg Simpson

**Trustees on Zoom:** JB Hadden, Heidi Samuel, Andrew Brenner (Designee for Senate President), Tom Chema (Immediate Past President)

**Ex Officios Present:** Matthew MacLaren (Designee for Director, Ohio Department of Development), Jennifer Brown (Designee for Governor Mike DeWine), Representative Joe Miller (Designee for Ohio Speaker of the House), Andrew Brenner, Michael Woytek (President, Ohio Academy of Sciences, Laura Battocietti (Director, Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board)

**Staff & Others Present:** Megan Wood, Anthony Gibbs, Steve George, Jerry Dannemiller, Jen Aultman, Shelbi Toone, Kevin Boehner, Wesley Newhouse (General Counsel), Stacia Kuceyeski, Jeff Ward, Laura Ecklar

# Call to Order

President Charles Moses called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

He asked everyone to go around the room and on zoom to give introductions. Mr. Moses thanked the trustees and staff who came and made the events happen with the executive meetings in Cleveland and Cincinnati. Mr. Moses thanked trustees who wrote thank you notes to donors.

# Executive Director’s Report

Mrs. Wood shared updates about special projects. Mrs. Wood introduced project manager, Shelbi Toone to share an update on Poindexter Village, Ohio History Connections 59th site.

Shelbi Toone shared some facts on the history of Poindexter Village. Poindexter Village was the first public housing property in Columbus, Ohio. Poindexter Village served as the first African American museum in Central Ohio. Poindexter Village was named after Reverend James Preston Poindexter. There was an effort to keep the village from being demolished; thirty-three of the fifty-five buildings were torn down leaving two for the Ohio History Connection to purchase. The two buildings currently sit in the heart of the new development on the east side. Just finished research and data of master planning. Used consulting data on a national level to see what other African American museums are doing. Used consulting company Renter Mentor to get local data an analysis on what is happening now. City of Columbus, the Ohio State University, and Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority have expressed an interest in being a part of what this group is. Stakeholders are excited and ready to partner with us. Juneteenth on the Ave is one signature event created, in a partnership to pay homage to the historical home on the Avenue. It is celebrated every Juneteenth. The celebration will take place on 6/19. It’s a block party that shares heritage and stories in which the community comes together. Another signature event happening on Saturday August 12 is the Drum Circle. Will start demolishing courtyard storage units starting Summer 2023. Will be in construction for the next two years until 2025. Union Grove Baptist Church to who we chare the parking lot with at the Poindexter Village Museum site.

Laura Ecklar from Conestoga shared about their fundraiser. Conestoga is an all-volunteer contact support group for the Ohio History Connection. Conestoga is a growing organization with currently 190 members. Most of the organization’s members are seniors who share a great passion for history. The organization travels to different OHC sites around the states. The organization’s fundraising activity each year is their biggest focal point. Ann Lowder, still an active member of the organization, founded Conestoga in 1986. The organization has raised over $788,000 for OHC. Conestoga also has an endowment fund, one of the fastest growing endowments as OHC and that total is over 300,000. Laura talked about Conestoga’s most recent endeavor is the support, the vision of Poindexter Village Museum and Cultural Center. There is no museum and cultural center building right now to visit and to learn all the terrific stories to be told of that community. Conestoga has chosen to raise funds for that project. Over $2.5K has been raised to date, from donor campaigns. The next big focal point is a fundraising event that will be on Saturday, April 29 at the Kings Art Complex. There will be music, a gallery with exhibits, raffle package to include a signed print by Aminah Robinson, a piece by artist Ben Crumpler who grew up in Poindexter Village. Invitations will go out in mid-March.

# Consent Agenda

Mr. Moses entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15 board meeting and the February 15 executive committee meeting. All approved the minutes.

**Board Resolution with Huntington – Finance**

Jeff Ward presented a recommendation for the Board’s approval of OHC’s line of credit with Huntington Bank.

Mr. Moses entertained a motion for approval. All approved.

# Financial Update - Finance

# Mr. Ward shared a brief overview of the YTD financial update for FY23. Total support and revenue for FY23 at $15.5 million, budgeted amount was $15.3 million. Total expenses year to date are about $14.2 million, budgeted for $14.6 million. Operating surplus YTD, $1.2 million projected to be $730K. The first half of year is usually stronger due to many events in the summer and interaction with customers. Our long-term investment portfolio was down $130K as of the end of December.

# FY23 – Financial Highlights – Contracts and grant revenue, better than budget by $648K year to date. Development office was instrumental in successfully pursuing some grants. OHC was awarded the Governors Education Emergency Relief grant by the governor’s office for $1.2 million. This will roll out in the near future. Contributions are better than budget and last year by $303K and $609K, respectively, earned revenues, including things like admissions to the museum, retail sales, programs in the village, are better than budget and last year by $217K & $91K respectively, expenses better than budget by $302K. All of the staff back pay was retroactive back to July 1 are embedded in these figures and reflected in these numbers.

# Current ratio – assets & liabilities; still at 1.0. Will take time to build back to a 1.5.

# Mr. Ward shared a chart on how OHC is doing with the public from the membership. Just over 7,000 paid members during pre-COVID, now we’re 1,000 ahead. Premium membership for a duo is $60, household membership $90, premium membership is $160. The premium membership has grown the most.

# Mrs. Wood shared an update on work being done. A question asked during the September meeting was, what do we want the budget to look like, to be in a more stable place. A six-year snapshot was put together of what finances for OHC have looked like over time. Want to achieve pay equity goals for staff, increase our ability and success in fundraising, improve ratio and pay off OHC intercompany debt. FY29 numbers about inflation, what needs to be done about pay equity, site stipends are a huge piece; total increase of $14 million; focusing on GRF and fundraising side. There is a 30% increase in GRF from FY22, 11% growth per year of operating budget.

# We plan on having a day and half board retreat in August.

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# Mrs. Wood shared the announcement that Ms. Ruege delivered her baby boy Rowan James and everyone is doing well. Anthony Gibbs from development will share the development update for the division.

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# Organizational Impact Report - Development

Anthony Gibbs shared information about the organizational impact of membership and fundraising. FY22 total number of memberships was at 7,925. Memberships for this year through the end of Q2 are 8,521. Premium memberships are high this year. Membership revenue at the end of Q2 FY22 was about $170,000. This year it’s almost $221,000 by the end of the second quarter. The number of paid members at the end of Q2 FY22 was 6,545, this year 7,807.

Fundraising – Annual fund is one of the hardest funds to raise money for and one of the most important funds. It had a decline some over the years, due to receiving a significant number of big gifts in FY21 and FY22. Want to as an organizational team, including the board, to put more effort into fundraising for the annual fund. Want to see the annual fund base grow. Increased mass solicitation from 640 in quarter two at the end of last year, to 9,235 this year. Also pushing for more online gifts from 23,000 last year to 38,000 this year. Took a pause on fundraising for Ohio Village, due to being in the middle of the master plan, still raising money for what will be happening in the Ohio Village soon. Received a significant Ohio Village operational gift in September, the numbers are pretty high for that part of the campaign.

Anthony shared a snapshot of things being done in other areas, pushing the relationship building to bring in other donors, engaging other organizations, to help bring up sponsorships.

The question was asked, how many members on Anthony’s team.

There are currently a team of five on donor relations team.

# Executive Session

# Mr. Moses requested a motion to recess into Executive Session, and the meeting convened in Executive Session at 2:01 p.m.

# The Board emerged from Executive Session at 3:12 p.m.

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# Alex Hastie, Secretary Date

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# Charles R. Moses, President Date

# Prepared by Theresa Hopewood