

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 23, 2022 – 1:00 pm
Ohio History Center – Cardinal Room

- Trustees Present:** Tom Chema (President), Charles Moses (Vice- President), Betty Weibel (Vice President), Jon Elsasser (Treasurer), Melody Young (Secretary), Alex Hastie, Ann Bair, Rich Hillis, Chief Billy Friend, Guadalupe Velasquez, Steve Coon, and Jen Miller
- Trustees Absent:** C. Ellen Connally, Anthony Joseph, Suhas Kakde, Bob Roach
- Trustees on Phone:** JB Hadden, Heidi Samuel, Jim Dicke
- EX Officios Present:** Laura Battocletti (Director, Capital Square and Review Advisory Board); Matthew MacLaren (Designee for Director, Ohio Department of Development); Jennifer Brown (Designee for Governor Mike DeWine), Laura Lanese (Designee, Robert Cupp, Speaker of the Ohio House)
- Ex Officio on Phone:** Joe Miller (Designee, House Minority Leader), David Staley (President, Ohio Academy of History)
- Staff & Others Present:** Jen Aultman, Jen Cassidy, Theresa Hopewood, Elizabeth Woods, Stacia Kuceyeski, Burt Logan, Wesley Newhouse (General Counsel), Ann Ruege, Fred Smith, Amanda Terrell, Jeff Ward, Alex Wesaw, Megan Wood, Lauren Barber, Steve George, Jerry Dannemiller, Jillian Ramage, Charles Wash, Wendy Zucal (Guest)
- Staff Phone in:** None

I. Call to Order

President Tom Chema called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. He welcomed new trustee Steve Coon attending his first board meeting.

Mr. Chema asked Amanda Terrell if she would like report on the Governor's announcement of the recent tax credits. She shared that as of yesterday, another 30 buildings were awarded tax credits, totaling \$40 million in tax credits.

Mr. Chema shared Ellen Connally, who is completing her third, three-year term, was unable to attend today's meeting. The board expressed its thanks for her service.

Mr. Chema thanked all of the ex-officios for attending. Matt McLaren reported the projected numbers for summer tourism are extremely encouraging.

Mr. Chema thanked Wendy Zucal for her hospitality at the 250 Schoenbrunn anniversary. He also thanked Melody Young for hosting the recent Semi Sequential Commission in Chillicothe.

II. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Logan welcomed everyone. On July 1, Todd Kleismit will be leaving his role as Director on Community and Government Relations to become Executive Director of America/Ohio 250. Mr. Logan expressed his thanks for Todd's leadership and numerous contributions to Ohio History during his 18 years of service.

Mr. Logan reported that Storybook Village, which was recently held in the Ohio Village, welcomed more than 3,000 guests. Co-sponsors included Columbus Metropolitan library and WOSU Public Media. A sizeable contingent of staff were present during the four-day summer solstice observance at Serpent Mound.

Jen Cassidy shared that the Jubilee Festival held in the Ohio Village this past Sunday was extremely successful. Charles Wash shared a Juneteenth on the Avenue program was also held for the community around the Poindexter Village area.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Chema stated proposed changes for two employment policies are being pulled from the Consent Agenda and will come before the Board at the September Board meeting. Mr. Chema entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion was made, seconded, and carried.

IV. Strategic Plan

Stacia Kuceyeski, Director of Outreach, reported on upcoming modification to the current Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Board in the fall 2020. Senior staff and several planning committees have been reviewing progress on the plan and identifying ways to streamline and focus the plan. Added emphasis is being proposed for sustainability (both environmental and financial), and equity (including pay equity and creating a culture of equity). The draft changes will be reviewed by senior leadership, in anticipation of presentation to the Board at its September meeting.

Major Organizational Project – Collections Storage

Megan Wood, Director of Cultural Resources, gave a brief update on the new collections storage facility. Following a review of bids, Robertson Construction located in Heath will be the general contractor. The new facility will be located on the north portion of the campus. Groundbreaking will occur this fall, with projected completion and initial occupancy in early 2024.

Finance Committee

On behalf of the Finance Committee Chief Financial Officer Jeff Ward presented an overview of the FY23 budget: total projected operating decline of \$543K; \$12.5 million in GRF; \$1 million carryover of GRF; contributions of \$2.65 million; and \$302K from earnings from the foundation. This will allow: an increase in the minimum wage from \$14/ to \$15/hour; a 2% pay increase for staff; equity pay adjustments of \$300K; eight to nine new positions; health care premium increase of 20%; and an increase from 75% to 80% of the organization's share of health insurance premiums.

He also highlighted the near closeout of the FY22 budget. Through May 31: operating surplus of about \$1.4 million; savings due largely is due job market factors; and the receipt of a \$751K from the Shutter Venue Operators Grant (SVOG).

A motion was made to approve the FY23 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Tom Chema commended the Finance Committee for its diligence in overseeing the budget.

Fundraising Committee

Ann Ruege, Chief Development Officer, reported we would receive \$440K from the Greater Columbus Arts Council next year, a healthy increase from this year's grant of \$318k. She reminded everyone of the reception for former and current members prior to today's Annual Meeting.

PS&L Committee

Megan Wood reported that conversations are being held with the Darke County Park Department regarding Fort Jefferson, a roadside historic site located near the Indiana line in Darke County. The Park Department approached us a year ago with a request to take over the property. We have been going through the board-approved process to assess whether or not we would consider transferring this site. Prior to taking any action, the Park Department will have to adopt a policy to protect the archaeological resources and collections. Any recommendation from the staff would then go before the PS&L Committee, with final action by the Board. If title to the site were transferred, the General Assembly would have to enact such legislation.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Executive Session

Mr. Chema requested a motion to recess into Executive Session, and the meeting convened in Executive Session at 2:13 p.m.

The Board emerged from Executive Session at 3:20 p.m.

X. Recess

The Board recessed for the Annual Meeting at 3:20 p.m.

XI. Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 5:17 to elect officers for FY23. The Trusteeship and Governance Committee presented the following slate, each to serve a term of One-year until the FY23 Annual Meeting:

President	Charley Moses
Vice-President	Betty Weibel
Vice-President	Ann Bair
Treasurer	Melody Young
Secretary	Alex Hastie

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate; motion carried unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Melody Young, Secretary

Date

Thomas V. Chema, President

Date

Prepared by Theresa Hopewood