

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - 1:00PM
Ohio State House - Stateroom

Trustees Present: Charles Moses (President), Ann Bair (Vice President), Melody Young (Treasurer), Jon Elsasser, Jen Miller, Bob Roach, Rich Hillis, Guadalupe Valasquez, Renu Ramankutty, Betty Montgomery, Christopher Gillcrist, JB Hadden, Anthony Joseph

Trustees Absent: Alex Hastie (Secretary), Chief Billy Friend, Steve Coon

Trustees on Team: Jan Allen, Kathleen Russell, Wesley Newhouse (General Counsel)

Ex Officios Present: Scott Ryan (Designee for Director, Ohio Department of Development), Michael Woytek (President, Ohio Academy of Sciences)

Staff & Others Present: Megan Wood, Steve George, Jerry Dannemiller, Jen Aultman, Ann Ruege, Kevin Boehner, Stacia Kuceyeski, Theresa Hopewood, Brenda Estes, Shelbi Toone, Anthony Gibbs, Katie and Michele Cramer

I. Call to Order

President Charles Moses called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Mr. Moses welcomed and introduced the new board trustee, Christopher Gillcrist.

Mr. Moses recognized Priscilla Tyson for being at the meeting. Congratulations to Anthony Joseph has been promoted to the president of White Castle and Ann Bair has been appointed as the new Chief Marketing Officer at Nationwide.

Mr. Moses would like to make a motion that the staff put together something to formerly recognize Tom Katzenmeyer who is retired for his service to the arts community in Columbus and Ohio. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Moses wanted to recognize what's in the governor's budget. Congratulations to the team.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Wood shared that our board president, Mr. Moses is being recognized by the Ohio Arts Council Governor's Awards for the arts. Mrs. Wood will send out the date for the luncheon.

Mrs. Wood will be sending out a demographic survey to the trustees that is needed for our annual Operating Support from the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Mrs. Wood shared a report on OHC's strategic plan initiatives referencing the two dashboards in the board packet, which were also passed out to the trustees separately. These dashboards report on our progress to the board. These two dashboards represent the priorities that came out of the August 2023 board retreat, and that revised list of major projects that are examined annually. Mrs. Wood, her executive team (direct reports) creates measurable goals for the objectives on an annual basis. The team creates quarterly objectives that are tracked monthly. The major projects have a team, a lead and an executive sponsor. The executive sponsor works with the team on any quick updates to ensure tracking on scopes, timeline and budget and any change management issues that need to be addressed.

Items on the dashboard that are Green are on track, Red are off track, and yellow are in between.

II. Consent Agenda

Mr. Moses entertained a motion to approve the minutes from December 12, 2024, board meeting and February 12, 2025, executive committee meeting. Motion to approve both minutes was unanimously approved.

III. Committee Reports

Governance Committee

Mr. Elsasser shared that Mr. Newhouse is working on updating the bylaws and they would be sent to the executive committee sometime in April before the June board meeting.

Mr. Elsasser shared that Mr. Newhouse wrote up changes that are part of the packet, to our Constitution that would allow for up to two board members besides the recognized tribal representatives or members to be not from Ohio. The amendment must be signed by 10 voting trustees of the Board.

Historic Sites and Real Estate Committee

Ms. Aultman shared the committee met and discussed a couple of items. Previously the board approved for us to purchase through the Appalachian Community grant program, a property tax into the Grant

Boyhood home for a visitor center. The decision was made that a property that was initially proposed in the grant is the one that should be pursued. The visitor center will be up on the square in Georgetown and real estate can be approved. The executive committee can be potentially purchasing the property discussed the last time as a buffer.

The second item discussed by the committee was regarding Serpent Mound. Owners of a property next door to Serpent Mound had approached OHC about purchasing the property. The Shawnee tribe has entered into the conversation. Details are not worked out yet, but the chief of Shawnee, Chief Barnes, is going out to see the property.

The Ohio River Museum project has escalation requiring a transfer of funds appropriated for the Lundy House. The intention is to request through the controlling board a transfer of funds that were appropriated from Lundy House and moving that into the Ohio River Museum project. Mr. Boehner has been a partner in that we need to speak with our legislators about that.

Mr. Elsasser inquired what happens to the Lundy House.

Mrs. Aultman replied we have enough funding to keep both projects going.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Wood – Shared the slides related to the next biennial budget by the State of Ohio. The governor has introduced the budget. We have testified in the House and waiting for the House version of the budget. In the governor's version of the budget, OHC is receiving in FY26 a \$9 million increase over the current fiscal year.

OHC has a budget amendment drafted for the House that would get the Historic Sites funding to a level necessary to operate the historic site system.

Mrs. Bair inquired how tight the number for America 250, is there any flexibility.

Mrs. Wood replied we really can't think of those as our dollars, those pass through to the Commission directly.

FY2025 Dec YTD Financial overview

3.4 million variances, the collections lease acquisition is the line of credit that we opened for settlement with Moundbuilders Country Club which will show up on our books this fiscal year. The highlights shown with income and expenses that contributions trailing by budget. We are gearing up a lot of fundraising activities. The lease buyout and the long-term investment gains through quarter two of \$391,00. Our current

assets versus liability ratio. OHC has received no payments yet from the federal government to fund the State Historic Preservation Office this fiscal year. There was a continuing resolution passed, there continues to be uncertainty about when payouts are going to happen from historic preservation fund. As staff is preparing the budget preparation they are planning different scenarios.

Governance Committee

Mr. Hillis stated that Mr. Boehner is in stride with this budget and has talked to a lot of legislators. Mr. Hillis thinks without opposition from the leadership that there won't be a ground swell.

Mr. Boehner shared that he is in the process of meeting with legislators from the House side and will continue to do that. That also includes the senate. We're cautiously optimistic right now.

Fundraising committee

Ms. Ruege shared that the committee met a couple of weeks ago and have updated the gift acceptance policy and created a campaign counting policy. Mr. Newhouse worked with her on streamlining the policy.

Mr. Moses entertained a motion to approve changes to the Gift Acceptance Policy and the approval of a new Campaign Counting Policy. Both motions were unanimously approved.

Poindexter Village Fundraising Feasibility

Mrs. Wood gave an overview of Poindexter Village project. In 2016 this board approved adding Poindexter Village as a site to the Ohio History Connection and with support from the City of Columbus, and specifically with then Councilwoman Priscilla Tyson we were able to purchase the property in 2017 from the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. In 2019 the legislation introduced by Herschel Craig to make it a state memorial. OHC is preparing to open the Poindexter Village and African American Museum in February of 2028. It's time to bring this project to the private sector and invite their financial support.

OHC has generous support from the Columbus Foundation to solicit proposals for fundraising firms that would help do this work. OHC has hired Cramer & Associates. Mrs. Wood recognized individuals in the room that made it possible to get to this point. This month will be securing an architect to do the detailed design development and then on the construction documents for the project. A formal partnership is secured with Union Grove Baptist Church, next door to the site. OHC staff, Shelbi Toone leads this project. With her leadership, this project has moved from being about the Poindexter Village story only to being about African American history in Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Wood introduced other team members in the room: Priscilla Tyson, Strategic Project Consultant hired by the City of Columbus, Anthony Gibbs, Major Gifts Officer for OHC, and

Azuka Mumin, former JPPF board member and future contractor on community engagement.

Private fundraising begins with a feasibility study. Cramer and Associates is present to share the results of the study.

Anthony Gibbs passed out materials that were part of the planning study by Cramer & Associates.

Campaign Planning Study Overview

Michele Cramer congratulated the OHC team for their diligence and recognized Priscilla Tyson for opening doors.

Michele and Katie Cramer went through the results of the study, findings and their recommendations.

Cramer had a Goal; Phase1, 1, 2,3 and 4

- Stakeholder Interviews (16 to date) – They need the philanthropic agenda
- Overall Perception of the project
- Perceived Strengths of the Project – Committed Public Sector Support (63%)
- Museum Represents Both the Poindexter Village story and the African American Story (50%)
- Shelbi Toone's Leadership (44%)
- 38% talked about the Uniqueness of the Project

3 top challenges

- competition with Other Capital Campaigns (69%)
- Uncertainty Caused by Federal Funding Freeze (63%)
- Will recommend that we secure federal dollars, we have our public funding in place
- Annual Operating Budget & Sustainability (50%) – the donor community want to see you have a sustainable funding; don't want to see you coming back

Where would you rank Poindexter Village in comparison to your other charitable priorities?

Going to need that cultivation and education

- Highest (73%)
- Between Medium and high (24%)
- Medium (13%)
- Low (13%) because of the uncertainty and timeliness of them having the conversations

Do you believe the community will support the \$11.6 million goal? – perceived as important

- Yes (69%) – supported the ohc over the years, but they never ask for anything major.
- Maybe (18%) will require new ways of engaging partners

What do you think it will take to make the project a success?

- Clearly-defined operating budget & plan for long-term sustainability (50%)
- Ensuring the Museum is a Community Asset (44%)
- Collaborating and buy-in from near east side nonprofits (44%)
- OHC Making the Museum a priority (38%) – are they going to support the museum's ongoing operations
- Multi-Generational Representation from Key Community Leaders (31%) – important to reach out to those who have not yet been called upon

Would you be inclined to support the campaign?

- Yes (74%)
- Maybe (13%) but this museum is for us

Would you consider serving in a volunteer leadership role?

Additional Key Themes

Priscilla Tyson's Leadership

Sense of Urgency

Recommendations – 5 key components for a successful campaign

- Leadership
- Strong Care for support
- Donor pipeline
- Philanthropic voice
- Leadership gifts

PV AAM \$11.6 million gift chart

Additional Campaign Recommendations

- Develop campaign branding
- Identify and recruit multi-generational campaign leadership

Project Campaign Timeline

Campaign preparation phase 1

Lead and Major gift solicitation – phase 2

Mid-level gift cultivation and solicitation – phase 3

Community campaign – phase 4

Groundbreaking – Jan 2026

Priscilla Tyson spoke about the project and shared what her role is.

IV. New Business – None

V. Executive session

Mr. Moses requested a motion to recess into Executive Session, the meeting convened in Executive Session at 2:38 p.m.

The board emerged from Executive Session at 3:03 p.m.

Mr. Moses asked for a motion to approve the Poindexter Village African American Museum campaign.
The motion was approved unanimously

The board ended at 3:04 p.m.



Alex Hastie, Secretary

3/21/25

Date

Charles R. Moses, President

Date

Prepared by Theresa Hopewood