

Olive Branch School Preservation Society  
Minutes of the meeting on January 10, 2018

The OBSPS Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Jim Leathley. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Sharon Leathley, Susan Morgan, Peter Scarff, John Sipe, Howard Stahl, Virgil Studebaker, Don Wallace,** and ex officio member **Norm Glismann.** Guest Connie Sample was also present.

The minutes of the October 9, 2017 meeting had been emailed or snail mailed to trustees several weeks before the meeting. There were no additions to or corrections of the minutes, and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Howard Stahl. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sharon Leathley presented a written report with a current balance of \$ 5,426.66, which included donations received from the 2017 membership mailing. She also presented a written list of those who were included in the mailing with any updated emails and addresses. Don Wallace asked if we had approached any organizations for donations and Sharon responded that we would do that when we did the larger mailing later this year. With no further questions, the Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Under Old Business, Chairman Jim Leathley asked Susan Morgan to share information she had noted at the meeting with Kevin Rose of The Turner Foundation. Susan, Cyndie and Sharon had met with Kevin on Tuesday, November 21, 2017. The verbal report included that Kevin was still trying to find an architect or architect student through his contacts who may be able to help us with some drawings for the Olive Branch Building restoration. He did suggest that meanwhile we could start on the one room we had cleared out and restore on a "divide and conquer" room-by-room basis with the funds and possible volunteers available. This would allow us to move ahead and have a place to display interpretative material and hopefully generate some community interest. He also gave us suggestions for a general plan to do this. Kevin further gave us the names of a couple of companies that are known for the good job they do on preservation. As for future funds, Kevin said some thought would have to be given as to when to ask and who to ask. He suggested we research nonprofit/charitable groups that file IRS 990s to see what type of projects they give to and how much they give. We could also check out flyers at places like museums as they generally list their donors and how much was given. This would help us decide who to ask when we are ready to approach organizations for funds. Some Springfield area families/organizations that give to projects were noted. Some discussion followed the verbal report. Don Wallace suggested we could check with Wright State University library/archives in deciding what to display as they have a wealth of information available. Jim Leathley said he knows Chris Widener who is an architect and he will see if Chris would look the room over and give us a heads up on any pitfalls we may have to address in starting the room. Cyndie Gerken volunteered to call a meeting at the Olive Branch building for trustees to see the room once we have more daylight hours. Howard Stahl mentioned we could contact some of the past custodians of the building to see if they remember room colors and other specific details of the building in its earlier years. Mr. Wallace mentioned "Peanut" Sheets and Mr. Sipe mentioned Mr. Davenport as two custodians still in the area.

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Under New Business, it was noted that we received a Della Selsor award for \$800 and a letter was sent back to that trust thanking them and advising as to what the money would be spent on. It was also noted that we plan to apply for that grant again in the spring. A fundraising drive was mentioned and Cyndie stated that a mass mailing might be sent later this year, perhaps in conjunction with an open house, if some progress has been made in the one room. Jim Leathley read aloud a letter received from a Nick Michael in response to our recent mailing.

Under Misc. Business, the Ohio Historical Marker idea for the building was reviewed and Cyndie stated that an application could be made in September of 2018. The cost is \$3,000 and there are grants available. Don Wallace reported that an Ohio National Road interpretive sign would cost about \$750. Virgil Studebaker asked about possibly changing the meeting night to Wednesday as he can only attend a Monday night meeting occasionally due to other commitments. Sharon checked the bylaws and the "second Monday of January, April, July and October" is written specifically, so would need a bylaw change. All of the trustees stated they could come on Wednesdays, so a motion was made to change the meeting night to Wednesday by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Motion carried. The new 2018 meeting nights would be April 11, July 11, July 10, and October 10 (Annual Meeting). Cyndie volunteered to work on an amendment to the bylaws that would make the meetings the second week in January, April, July, and October without a specific night of the week set. We will plan to vote on the amendment at the April meeting. Sharon Leathley passed out the new (updated) brochures to anyone who wanted to distribute them. With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Howard Stahl and seconded by Jim Leathley. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Leathley at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Morgan, Secretary