

Olive Branch School Preservation Society

Minutes of the meeting on July 10, 2019

The OBSPS Board meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Jim Leathley. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Susan Morgan, Sharon Leathley, Howard Stahl, Ken Strickland, Virgil Studebaker, Don Wallace, Scott Suther, Sara Suver**, and ex-officio TLS Assistant Superintendent Ivan Gehret. Guests Connie Sample and Wes Baker were also present. Wes is a Clark County representative on the Ohio National Road Association's Board.

The minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting had been snail mailed or emailed to all trustees after the January meeting. (The April meeting was canceled.) A motion to approve the January 9th minutes was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Virgil Studebaker. Motion carried.

A printed Treasurer's Report was distributed. Sharon Leathley noted the \$1100.00 grant money included in the report was received from the William J. Pomeroy Foundation for our National Register sign. We will pay for the sign upon notification of its shipment. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for review.

Under Old Business, Jim Leathley reported that he had been trying to reach someone from Ted Bolle Millwork, Inc. to get an estimate on restoration of the windows and door in the SE classroom. Ted Bolle was recommended by Jim Lagos who had used his services in the restoration of the Bushnell Building in Springfield. Mr. Lagos was very happy with his work. Ted had told Chairman Leathley earlier that they were very busy but that they were interested. Our first estimate of \$18,000 for windows and the door was from The Centennial Group in Columbus. We would like to have a second estimate so that we can make a decision as to which company to go with and apply for some grants with the specific project cost in the request. Scott Suther mentioned his brother-in-law, Sam Horner, does some restoration work and used to work for Ted Bolle. Scott will get together with Jim Leathley to have his brother-in-law look at the room and give an estimate. He could also give us some referrals to see some of his work. Cyndie Gerken mentioned that the only disadvantage to using a private person would be that if we try for Federal grants, they would require work done by someone certified in restoration work. Jim also mentioned he is going to get together with Doug Lyons for an estimate on an overhead light, a couple of electrical outlets and a room A/C and heat unit for climate control of the restorations we do.

Under New Business, Sharon Leathley stated that she spoke with a CPA about an audit of our finances as called for in our bylaws. She was advised by the CPA not to call it an "audit" or it would be very comprehensive and costly. She was advised to call it a "review" done by someone who was not handling the money. To do this we would have to change our bylaws to read as a "review." She passed out written recommended changes in the bylaws to meet this change. Jim Leathley also proposed that we suspend the 10-day prior notice rule on bylaw changes so that we could vote on the change to the bylaws tonight and our review could be done. Don Wallace moved to suspend the 10-day prior notice rule and accept the changes in bylaws and Ken Strickland seconded. Motion carried. Sharon Leathley asked for volunteers to do the review and Virgil Studebaker, Cyndie Gerken and Don Wallace all volunteered. Cyndie Gerken and Sharon Leathley reviewed the process of getting our National Register

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sign through the William J. Pomeroy Foundation; the sign is currently being made by Sewah Studios in Marietta. The group discussed the timing of the placement of the sign and all felt the fall would be a good time to do so and maybe have an open house to unveil the sign. It could coincide with the tour Susan Morgan's 1969 THS class is going to take during their 50th class reunion in October. Postcard invitations to the open house were mentioned and Sharon Leathley and Cyndie Gerken are working on a list of people that might be interested in coming. Assistant Superintendent Ivan Gehret volunteered to help coordinate where to place the sign. (How far away from road, etc.)

Under Miscellaneous Business, Jim Leathley reported that David McWharter has the old light that had hung in the Madison Street School building in New Carlisle and the old clock that had hung in the gymnasium of Olive Branch. He indicated to Jim that he would probably be willing to give them to OBSPS when we were ready to put them up. Jim and Sharon Leathley also mentioned that they have Howard Zeller's blackboard that they would give to the room. Several also mentioned that they had desks from some of the old schools in the district that they would donate. Jim Leathley showed pictures from a school museum that he and Sharon visited on their trip touring Route 66. We can use it to inspire some ideas of what and how to display in the room. Howard Stahl told us about a THS grad from 1965, Dave Vernier, who was inducted into the Tecumseh Hall of Honor this past year. He is a successful business man and has his own charitable foundation. He may be someone who would give toward one of our room projects. Ivan Gehret said that TLS Board office secretary Karen Fairchild would probably have his contact information. Howard said that Rick Goings, also a THS graduate of the 70's, was a successful excavating contractor in Indianapolis, IN. He may be someone who would donate to one of our projects. Cyndie Gerken spoke about the Ohio History Fund grant that she has looked into before. It is very complicated and she has reached out to Nathalie Wright (who did the OB National Register nomination) to see if she has the time and interest in doing this grant application. There would be a cost involved and she will check on that also. She mentioned that new OBSPS trustee Sara Suver was asked to check out the requirements for a Turner Foundation grant; the submission date is September 13, 2019. Cyndie further mentioned that we may need to also call a special meeting of the OBSPS Board to plan for the open house before our next regular meeting on October 9, 2019.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken Strickland and seconded by Sara Suver. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Susan Morgan