

Olive Branch School Preservation Society
Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting
July 6, 2009

Members present: Bill Berry, James Gay, Cyndie Gerken, Jim Leathley, Jane Manemann, John Sipe, Ken Strickland, and Virgil Studebaker

Bill Berry called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Arrow Conference Room. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Bill Berry explained that Mary Jane, school secretary would send information to Ken Strickland, Society Secretary, and he would relay it to the Society membership, at least four days before a meeting, and at least ten days before a special meeting.

Discussion was held on the use of members' names for community recognition purposes.

Cyndie Gerken stated that we need a contact list of all members. This would be especially necessary for fundraising.

Bill Berry presented an update on legislation. Cyndie Gerken stated that a response to the petition that the Olive Branch School be placed on the National Register should be received this week. Jim Leathley reported that local legislators had been contacted. Jane Manemann reported that she had not heard anything about stimulus funds. Bill Berry stated that if funds were designated for a specific purpose, they must be used for that project.

Dues were discussed. They are \$10 per individual, \$15 per household, effective throughout 2010. They may be sent to Pam Mustovich in a week to ten days. John Sipe and others expressed concern over the dues. The concern was that many donors would think that the membership fee was the only contribution necessary for preservation needs. John Sipe recommended that dues be limited to annual meeting attendees. Bill Berry reminded the trustees that the Society has tax-deductible 501(c)(3) status.

Cyndie Gerken suggested that a form be printed and distributed in an informational booth at games. John Sipe noted that handouts outlining the Society's goals should also be distributed. Virgil Studebaker added that the publication should also emphasize that assistance is needed. Virgil Studebaker suggested that this could be coordinated with the alumni tent at homecoming. It was suggested that an article on the work of the Society be sent to the Dayton and New Carlisle newspapers.

A major article should also be sent to the Dayton, Springfield, and New Carlisle newspapers, as well as placed on the Society's website when the School is placed on the National Register. John Sipe stated that this would be the time to initiate the fund drive.

The fundraising phase will require considerable expertise and diplomacy. A committee of six to ten should be workable. Bob Suver and Jim Scarff were recommended. Bill Berry stated that the fund drive should be executed quickly.

Virgil Studebaker discussed phases of the preservation project; the first step being the fundraiser, the next step would be restoration. In reply to Ken Strickland, Virgil Studebaker and Jim Leathley stated that plaques with names of donors at various levels to be mounted in the School were not a good idea.

John Sipe suggested that high profile community members be designated as honorary trustees. He suggested Bob Suver and John Detrick. He also recommended contacting Tom Crouch of the Smithsonian to see if he would lend support in any way; Virgil Studebaker agreed to make the contact. Virgil also stated that it is best if couples can be listed as members. All Tecumseh Hall of Honor inductees should be contacted. Basil Fett was also recommended. Bill Berry recommended Mike Willits, Mike Stafford, Mike Wardley, Bill Stapleton, and Mr. Steinlage. Jane Manemann recommended Dr. Kaz, Dr. Patrick Gray, and Merle Kerns. Jim Leathley agreed to serve on the fundraising committee.

John Sipe also reminded the Trustees that legal counsel is necessary. He recommended local alumni attorneys Scott Beales, Dan Driscoll, and Bryan Driscoll.

Bill Berry asked for suggestions for other committees such as the clean-up and coordination committees. Virgil Studebaker proposed a publications committee. He further suggested that the next meeting be held in the Olive Branch School, the first Monday in October.

Jane Manemann reported that she has talked with the editor of the New Carlisle newspaper, and that he is willing to cooperate in any possible way. The question was raised if the Society can use excerpts from newspaper articles in Society handouts.

Virgil Studebaker expressed concern over a perceived two-tier membership, i.e. trustees and the general membership. Bill Berry replied that decisions can be more easily reached with a smaller group. The general membership will be assigned to committees.

Bill Berry stated that he may call a special meeting, open to the public, at which the plaque, designating the School as a landmark on the national Register, would be dedicated. This would be in August or September.

Jim Leathley stated that the plans for restoration should be sent to Nelson Wenrick.

Jim Leathley moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Bill Berry adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Strickland, secretary