

Olive Branch School Preservation Society

Minutes of the Annual Meeting on October 14, 2020

The OBSPS Annual meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman **Jim Leathley**. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Sharon Leathley, Susan Morgan, Virgil Studebaker, Scott Suther, Don Wallace**, and ex-officio TLS Assistant Superintendent **Ivan Gehret**.

The minutes of the October 9, 2019 meeting had been emailed or snail mailed to all trustees after the October 2019 meeting. Since it has been a year since we met due to the Covid pandemic, Secretary Susan Morgan verbally reviewed highlights of those minutes to refresh our memories. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Scott Suther and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Motion carried.

A printed Treasurer's Report was distributed by Treasurer Sharon Leathley, and she verbally reviewed highlights of the report including a treasury balance of \$14,356.33, and a \$5,000 balance in the Olive Branch Horizon Fund (held by the Springfield Foundation). The report will be filed for review.

Under Committee Reports, Chairman Jim Leathley distributed our 2020 Annual Report. He noted that we had no "official" meetings in 2020 until tonight due to the pandemic, but we had communicated by email and indeed made progress for OBSPS. We received three grants this year including one from the Della Selsor Trust, one from The Turner Foundation, and one from the Ohio National Road Association. We were also able to proceed with some work on the southeast classroom in the building with Blind Eye Restoration removing the windows and the exterior door for restoration. Details on cost, etc. are in the Annual Report. It was also mentioned that Sara Suver had completed the application for a 2020 Turner Foundation grant requesting \$13,800 for the restoration of the two front entry doors and surrounding windows. Chairman Leathley shared his personal vision of future renovation work being: restoring front entry door and windows, doing cement work at several locations outside (for looks and safety issues), and also proceeding with the completion of the southeast classroom restoration. The additional classroom work would include electric (wiring and light fixtures), heat, wall and ceiling (plaster/drywall and paint), and refinishing the floor. Some discussion followed on ways to accomplish these tasks.

Under Old Business, Jim Leathley reported that he had talked to Lindsay Jones of Blind Eye and they reported that the SE room windows and exterior door restoration was coming along well and that they should be ready to reinstall in a couple of weeks. Scott Suther has agreed to let the company into the building when they are ready, with Mr. Gehret adding he would be available if there were any problems. Jim also mentioned that in general discussions in the community, a couple of people have offered to help us on some of the renovation (nothing specific). We all agreed we wanted to foster public involvement. Also under Old Business, we discussed grant applications. Cyndie Gerken reported (regarding the 2019 Turner Foundation grant mentioned earlier), that we had submitted a required Final Report to the Foundation detailing the use of the funds awarded last year for SE classroom windows and exterior door restoration. This action will show them that we have used the grant as we indicated and were responsible with the funds granted. The Report also mentioned recommendations by John Landess and Kevin Rose (suggesting Blind Eye Restoration) to show our association with experienced renovators. Cyndie reported that she also completed the application for the Della Selsor Trust grant for 2021. In addition Cyndie reported that she had spoken with Nathalie Wright regarding assisting us in the completion of a History Fund grant through the Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society), and Nathalie recommended that we have a plan in place of steps we want to take in the rest of the restoration. This shows foundations from which we are seeking grants that we have a vision. Cyndie also shared that the William Pomeroy Foundation (which provided our National Register sign) gives grants for technical upgrades and that we may think about

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applying for a 2021 grant to update our web site to be more user-friendly on mobile devices rather than a computer since most people use their phones for everything.

Under New Business, we reappointed trustees Scott Suther, Sara Suver, and Jim Leathley whose current terms will be expiring on 10/31/2020. A motion to reappoint all three to new three-year terms that would expire on 10/31/2023 was made by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Motion unanimously passed. We also elected officers for 2021. A motion to re-elect the same slate of officers that we currently have for another one-year term was made by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Susan Morgan. Motion carried. We then had additional discussion on the renovation plan for the building and we concurred that Jim's vision as mentioned earlier was agreeable. This would allow us to open up the building with a fully restored room and improve the street view, perhaps attracting more interest. It was suggested that perhaps the rotunda renovation should follow the earlier-mentioned completion of the SE classroom and front entry doors and windows, etc. (before proceeding with work in the other classrooms).

Under Miscellaneous Business, we were informed that the 2021 meeting dates will tentatively be January 13, April 14, July 14, and October 13 (Annual Meeting) and hopefully we can meet in person for all the 2021 meetings. Treasurer Sharon Leathley also reminded us that our yearly dues needed to be paid by the end of this year.

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Leathley at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Susan Morgan