

Olive Branch School Preservation Society

Minutes of the meeting on October 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, Susan Morgan, Sharon Leathley, John Sipe, Howard Stahl, Virgil Studebaker, Don Wallace**, and ex-officio TLS Assistant Superintendent Ivan Gehret. Guest Connie Sample was also present.

The minutes of the July 11, 2018 had been snail mailed or emailed to all trustees several weeks prior to the meeting. There were no additions or corrections of the minutes as written; a motion to approve was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by John Sipe. Motion carried.

A printed treasurer's report was distributed. Cyndie Gerken pointed out the payment to Digital Graphics was for creating a Facebook page and updating our website. Kevin Rose had suggested to the trustees that we create a Facebook page to help get the word out about preserving the Olive Branch School. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Susan Morgan and seconded by Howard Stahl. Motion carried.

Chairman Leathley provided copies of his written annual report which he had prepared in accordance with our bylaws (since October is our annual meeting). He verbally reviewed the highlights of the report.

Under Old Business, Jim Leathley reported that he had talked to architect Chris Widener about looking at the building, but they have not yet met. Jim also mentioned that A/C and heat will be needed as we progress so that we preserve what improvements we make. Howard Stahl stated that he thought we could do what was needed in the restoration as long as we are not using Federal funds, as Federal grants carry stringent guidelines in regard to how things have to be done. Jim also reported that he has been in contact by email with Matt Wolfe of Centennial Preservation about the window restoration. Matt had been traveling but indicated that he would love to look at the building. Centennial Preservation is a company out of Columbus that Kevin Rose had mentioned to us.

Under New Business, Chairman Jim Leathley stated it was time to reappoint trustees Mr. Stahl, Mr. Strickland and Mr. Studebaker. A motion to reappoint all three if they accepted was made by Cyndie Gerken. This would be a three-year term expiring 10/31/2021. Sharon Leathley seconded the motion. After discussion, Mr. Stahl and Mr. Studebaker accepted the position and Cyndie will check with Mr. Strickland since he was not present at the meeting. Motion carried. The election of officers was next on the agenda. All present officers agreed to run again and a motion to reelect the current officers was made by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Don Wallace. Motion carried. Next Cyndie Gerken and Sharon Leathley spoke about a potential fund raising letter. Kevin Rose had advised us to document what we are doing to raise funds, so that could be presented when seeking grants, etc. Sharon mentioned a letter going out for a three-year fund drive where a person gives a certain amount and pledges to give the same for two more years. Some discussion followed as to whom letters would go. Sharon stated she felt it would be a waste of money to send one to everyone in the TLS District, as we would get better response for the postage money spent if we sent to those who had expressed interest in the past. Howard Stahl also mentioned it may be worth it to send to businesses. Scott and Dave Suther were mentioned as two alumni that were very interested in history and they have alumni lists. Ivan Gehret suggested that a "buy a window" campaign could also be done. Cyndie Gerken mentioned that the Quinlan Foundation of Springfield would be another source for seeking funds and their forms are not complicated. Regarding grant writing, Cyndie stated she had contacted a couple of friends who did grant writing and they were too busy to meet the 2018 application deadlines but may be able to help in the future. Cyndie mentioned also that the Ohio Historical Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society), had a very complicated application and an experienced grant writer would know how to word the requests.

Chairman Leathley stated he would set up work days once he met with Chris Widener to see how best to proceed. Some discussion followed on lighting, outlets, ceiling fans, hand rails etc. The front entryway was mentioned as an area that should be cleaned up so that it would be presentable when we have open houses, etc. Jim Leathley mentioned that, among other things, a lot of batteries were stored in the entryway. Ivan Gehret stated he would have Roger Diller of the district maintenance department look at them and hopefully get them moved.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm. The next meeting is planned for January 9, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Susan Morgan