

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes: January 28, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Connie Conner (ex officio), Tina Ratcliff, Robin Heise, Virginia Dressler, Michelle Sweetser, Ernest Thode, Stephen Badenhop, Tami Kelly, Meghan Hays, Bill Modrow and Lisa Smilnak

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Fred Previts (ex officio), Burt Logan (ex officio), Tim Neal, Russ Pollitt

OHC STAFF PRESENT: Todd Kleismit

I. **Welcome**

Ratcliff called the meeting to order. She welcomed Lisa Smilnak to the board and members introduced themselves.

II. **Consent Agenda**

- a. October 29, 2021 Minutes: Kelly motioned to approve and was seconded by Sweetser. Minutes approved.

III. **Strategic Discussion**

- a. Ohio History Connection Update: Todd Kleismit reported that Statehood Day will be held March 1, 2022 at the Ohio Statehouse from 10 am to 12:30 pm. This is the annual event to commemorate Ohio's birthday and advocate for Ohio's history with partner organizations from around the state, including OHRAB. John Dichtl, President and CEO of the American Association for State and Local History, will be the keynote speaker and will talk about the America 250 initiative commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Registration for Statehood Day is open and more information is available at ohiohistory.org/statehoodday. Kleismit expects that the Ohio Commission for the America 250th initiative will be announced at the event.
- b. Membership Update: Ratcliff reported that Smilnak has joined the board as an at-large member. She also reported that Patrice Hamiter of the Western Reserve Historical Society has accepted a gubernatorial appointment to the board and that her application has been submitted to the Governor's Office. Badenhop reviewed the appointment process for gubernatorial appointments. He mentioned that Heise's gubernatorial appointment expires at the end of March. He also mentioned that Hays' at-large appointment

expires on March 31, 2022 and made a motion to reappoint her to the board. Seconded by Heise and all approved the motion.

- c. Election of OHRAB chair and vice-chair: Ratcliff said that a chair and vice-chair needed to be elected for the year. Heise made a motion to nominate Ratcliff as chair. Modrow seconded and all in favor. Modrow made a motion to nominate Badenhop as vice-chair. Seconded by Dressler and all in favor.
- d. OHRAB Budget: Conner reviewed the 2022 budget and reported that it includes \$30,000 for regrants this year. She also shared that the board is still awaiting official notification from the NHPRC on the grant award.
- e. Committee and Organizational Updates: Ratcliff presented a report on the Awards Committee and shared that the Muskingum County Records Center received the 2021 Archives Achievement Award and the plaque will be delivered in the up-coming weeks. She also mentioned that the judging for the History Day Award which recognizes the best use of primary sources will be around mid-April.

Badenhop reported that the final reports for the 2021 regrant recipients are due January 31. The 2022 regrant guidelines have been finalized and will be announced around February 1. The applications will be due March 31 and the grants will be announced April 25. For this year language was added to encourage projects focusing on under-documented communities and projects, as well as under-served communities. Hays and Dressler discussed updating their video on tips for successful grant applications.

Heise reported that the Advocacy Committee has been posting board member photos and biographies on OHRAB's Facebook page. Sweetser mentioned that the Advocacy Committee will be meeting in mid-February.

IV. New Business: The board discussed the future of the fellowship program and Heise mentioned perhaps expanding it to include volunteers. Members also discussed how to reach and help smaller repositories that might not have the resources to apply for a regrant. The board talked about how it could provide guidance to these institutions on how to draft a grant application.

V. Closing
Hays motioned to adjourn. Badenhop seconded. All approved.