

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

DRAFT Minutes, July 22, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Ratcliff, Tami Kelly, Meghan Hays, Virginia Dressler, Michelle Sweetser, Ernest Thode, Robin Heise, Patrice Hamiter, Lisa Smilnak, Stephen Badenhop, Bill Modrow, Chris Shaw, Linda Swanson, Fred Previts, Connie Conner

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Burt Logan

OHC STFF Present: Debra Moorehead

I. Welcome

Ratcliff called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. She welcomed Patrice Hamiter, Linda Swanson and Chris Shaw to the board and members introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

Minutes of the April 29, 2022 meeting: Heise motioned to approve and seconded by Modrow. Minutes approved.

III. Strategic Discussion

- a. Membership Update: Ratcliff reported that the board is now full with sixteen members.
- b. OHRAB Budget: Previts reported that there is still about \$3,400 in the budget to spend, \$2,000 of which is travel funds to attend the quarterly meetings. Board members discussed ways this funding could be used, such as through professional development scholarships. There was also discussion about if the board is required to meet in person versus virtual. The bylaws allow for either in person or virtual attendance at the meetings for purposes of a quorum and state that while OHRAB is not legally subject to the Ohio Open Meetings Act it embraces the spirit of the act. Hays reminded the board that that while there is some unspent travel money and regrant funds, there are still expenses that will need to be paid, such as the professional development scholarships.
- c. Committee and Organizational Updates: Ratcliff introduced each committee and welcomed the new members to join them. She reported for the Awards Committee that the fall professional development scholarship opportunity has been distributed. Ratcliff also shared that there were two recipients of the spring scholarships. One attended the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference while the second recipient's conference was cancelled. The call for nominations for the Citizen Archivist Award has also been sent out. Ratcliff also shared that the call for nominations for the Archives Achievement Award will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. This award recognizes an Ohio archives for its records preservation and access work. Two History Day awards were also given this spring.

Badenhop gave an overview of ORHAB's regrant program. He reported that this year there were 19 applicants and 13 recipients received a total of over \$32,000 in funding. He reminded the project mentors that the interim reports are due August 31.

Sweetser reported for the Advocacy Committee that it has compiled a list of organizations that board communications should be shared with. She also asked that board members share with the Advocacy Committee when projects are completed. Board members photos and biographies continue to be posted to the OHRAB Facebook page and information on the 2022 regrant projects will be added.

Heise provided an overview of the Fellowship Program, mentioning that it is for students to get hands-on archival experience. It has been offered twice previously and during those projects the students looked for manumission and emancipation papers in southwest Ohio. The proposed 2023 project will be different in that the students will be conducting online research and then local historical societies could do the in-person research. She also mentioned consolidating the findings on the OHRAB website.

Shaw asked how board members should communicate with the organizations they represent. Members shared that they provide an in-person or written report at the organizations' meetings.

IV. New Business

Previts shared that Megan Wood, Director of the Cultural Resources Division at the Ohio History Connection, will be the next CEO and Executive Director of the organization effective August 1. He also reported that Todd Kleismit, former Director of Community and Government Relations at the Ohio History Connection, is now the Executive Director of the Ohio 250th Commission.

Ratcliff and Badenhop gave an overview of OHRAB's regrant guidelines conflict of interest statement. Institutions employing members of the board, as paid staff or as a board member, are ineligible for regrants. Badenhop said that this statement is not required by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) but was implemented by OHRAB. The NHPRC does not have any restriction on OHRAB members receiving regrant funding but advises that OHRAB members should abstain from reviewing and voting on any projects they are involved with. Badenhop believes OHRAB's rule was implemented to avoid the perception that the institutions of board members have an unfair advantage. This issue arose during the last grant cycle.

Board members discussed clarifying the eligibility language, such as paid staff versus volunteers and institutions employing board members versus organizations represented on the board. Members also commented that this rule penalizes institutions and organizations for having someone serve on OHRAB.

Kelly made a motion to change the OHRAB regrant Conflict of Interest statement to match the NHPRC's Conflict of Interest Statement. Motion seconded by Modrow. The

motion was tabled until the October meeting. The Regrant Committee will draft language based on Section A of the NHPRC's Conflict of Interest Statement and will also review the other regrant eligibility guidelines for further clarification and present the revised guidelines at the October meeting.

Ratcliff shared that OHRAB was invited to present at the Fall Ohio Local History Alliance/Society of Ohio Archivists conference. Modrow volunteered to assist Ratcliff with the presentation.

- V. **Closing:** Hays motioned to adjourn. Modrow seconded. All approved and the meeting concluded at 11:26 a.m.