

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes, April 28, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Ratcliff, Stephen Badenhop, Virginia Dressler, Tami Kelly, Michelle Sweetser, Robin Heise, Lisa Smilnak, Chris Shaw, Fred Previts, Connie Conner

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Meghan Hays, Linda Swanson, Ernest Thode, Bill Modrow, Megan Wood

I. Welcome

Ratcliff called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the January 27, 2023 meeting: Badenhop motioned to approve and seconded by Shaw. Minutes approved.

III. Strategic Discussion

- a. OHRAB Budget: Previts reported that the regrant funds, the largest expense for the year, were awarded last week. An additional \$10.79 was spent to fully fund an applicant for a total of \$30,010.79. The budget includes \$2,500 which would allow us to meet in person in July as well. If OHRAB doesn't meet in person in July the board will need to discuss if there are other projects those funds could support. The award committee expects to spend all of its budget.
- b. The board discussed replacing Patrice Hamiter, a gubernatorial appointee, who had resigned in February. Dressler suggested Bill Claspy of Case Western Reserve University's Archives and Special Collections. Dressler will contact Claspy, and, pending his interest, the board will vote at the July meeting on accepting his nomination.
- c. Ratcliff reported on the Awards Committee and shared that University of Akron received the 2022 Archives Achievement Award for scanning thousands of images for the university's sesquicentennial celebration. She also shared that the History Day awards were presented last week. This year a senior division award was not given so a second award was made to a junior division entry. The board discussed that many of the entries were ineligible and discussed how to encourage more use of Ohio primary sources.
- d. Badenhop reported for the Regrants Committee that all the 2022 final reports were submitted except from the Rocky River Historical Society, which had received an extension on its project and submitted an additional interim report. The 2023 grant awards were chosen on Tuesday April 18. Eighteen grant applications were received, and ten grants were awarded. He mentioned that there were not many projects serving underserved communities in this year's applications. Interim grant reports are due August 31, 2023 and final reports are due January 31, 2024.

- e. Sweetser reported that the Advocacy Committee is posting about award and regrant recipients on social media. She and Conner will be revising the OHRAB rack card for review in July.
- f. Heise reported that two fellowship applications were received and JeMiah L. Baht Israel, PhD candidate with a master's degree in anthropology, was chosen. The fellowship will be a 10 week project to search online records for Fairfield, Perry, Morgan, Hocking, Athens, Vinton, Meigs, Jackson, Gallia and Lawrence Counties and identify potential manumission records. Potentially the board could then work with local volunteers from historical or genealogical societies to look for the records in person.
- g. The current strategic plan was reviewed and changes recommended for the 2024-2026 plan. Some actions were eliminated as no longer feasible to accomplish. Other actions were revised to encourage working with other partners and to offer greater flexibility in meeting the goals. An additional action was added under Goal 1 to promote activities for the U.S. Semiquincentennial, highlighting Ohio's historical records. Previts will send out a draft copy of the new strategic plan to be approved at the July 14 meeting.

IV. New Business

- a. Ratcliff announced that she and Modrow will visit the Anderson Township Historical Society, one of the 2023 grant applicants, to speak about OHRAB and the regrant program.
- b. The next meeting on July 14 will be held in person in Grove City, hosted by Tami Kelly, or at the Ohio Historical Center as backup.
- c. A photograph of the board was taken and will be posted on social media.

- V. **Closing:** Badenhop motioned to adjourn. Heise seconded. All approved and the meeting concluded at 1:30 p.m.