

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes, July 14, 2023

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Robin Heise, Megan Wood

I. Welcome

- a. Ratcliff called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and thanked Kelly for hosting the meeting at the Grove City City Hall.

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the April 28, 2023 meeting: Badenhop motioned to approve and Kelly seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. Strategic Discussion

- a. OHRAB Budget: Ratcliff commented on the expenditures for the Ohio History Day award exceeding what was budgeted. She also reported that no applications have been received for the fall Professional Development Scholarships.
- b. Dressler contacted Helen Conger, who is willing to serve as the gubernatorial appointee to replace Patrice Hamiter. Modrow motioned to approve Conger's appointment and Kelly seconded; all approved. Previts will send her the application forms to complete.
- c. Ratcliff reported that the Citizen Archivist award announcement will be sent out and the deadline for nominations will be September 15. She also shared that the announcement for Achievement Award nominations will go out August 1 and the fall professional scholarship applications are due August 18.
- d. Badenhop reported that all the checks for the regrant projects have been sent to the recipients and interim reports are due August 31. He also shared that he will be leaving the board due to term limits in 2024, so the regrant committee will need a new chair as well as a new member.
- e. Sweetser reported that social media posts are made on a regular basis. The advocacy committee will also be revising the OHRAB pamphlet later this summer.
- f. Previts reported that the fellowship is going well.
- g. Samantha Rubino and Alex Evereth from the Ohio History Connection School and Teacher Support Department presented outreach tips for Ohio History Day. It is an immersive and virtual experience wherein students can learn tools of history and engage as change-makers. History Day began at Case Western Reserve University in 1974. Three student divisions include Youth (grades 4-5), Junior (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12) and five categories of projects include exhibit, documentary, paper, performance, and website. Word and time limits on projects mean that there can be extensive use of media. Youth division only has performance and exhibit projects. The OHRAB award is only given for documentary, paper, and website entries. The project

timeline involves research in the fall, project creation in the winter, and the contest in the spring. April 20 is the 2024 state History Day event and “Turning Point for History” is the theme. Late summer and mid-spring are good times to reach out. Some ideas for helping students succeed on Ohio History Day are to 1) develop a collection finding aid related to the theme, 2) reach out to region coordinators and hold research days and 3) join a workshop in September. Another method of outreach is sharing resources with educators by connecting with educator groups or reaching out in newsletters and social media, such as the Ohio Department of Education *Signal* or an Ohio History Connection’s *Educator Blog*. Awards are posted in September and might be reshared on social media. OHRAB could help fund certain History Day activities, given the opportunity to budget ahead or provide awards for teachers to help fund project materials.

- h. The strategic plan drafted at the April 28 meeting was discussed, with an emphasis on how Goal 1 Action 2 could better accommodate ideas we have on providing greater support for Ohio History Day. After some consideration of the roles of archivists and records managers, specifically the desire of records managers to have a say in the creation of records, Goal 2 was edited to reflect the board’s interest in records “throughout their life cycle.” Kelly motioned to approve the strategic plan and Badenhop seconded. All approved.

IV. New Business

- a. It was suggested that Chris Hurtubise, Communications Director of the Ohio 250th Commission, be invited to speak at our next meeting about the Ohio Semisesquicentennial.
- b. Board members discussed further ways OHRAB could provide support to History Day. A new funding line would need to be included in the following year’s budget to provide additional monetary support. In the meantime, the board can work with other organizations, like the Society of Ohio Archivists or genealogists, to crowdsource guidance for History Day. This can be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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