

OHIO HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes, January 31, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Ratcliff, Robin Heise, Helen Conger, Virginia Dressler, Meghan Hays, Tami Kelly, Lonna McKinley, Bill Modrow, Brenda Ransom, Lisa Smilnak, Michelle Sweetser, Linda Swanson, Fred Previts, Connie Conner

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chris Shaw, Megan Wood

I. Welcome

- a. Ratcliff called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She extended congratulations to Dressler and Hays for the article "Beyond the Grant: Cultivating Sustainable Next Steps" published in the Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies.

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Ratcliff referred to the board meeting packet which included the consent agenda and a report from the Ohio Electronic Records Committee.
- b. Ransom orally summarized the fall meeting of CARMA where recent legislation was discussed, and Stephen Badenhop was congratulated for winning the OHRAB Achievement Award.
- c. Modrow moved to approve the minutes but Ratcliff noted a correction to the minutes in section IV. B: that she and Heise did not agree to serve as chair and vice-chair. Heise moved to accept the corrected minutes and McKinley seconded. All approved.

III. Strategic Discussion

- a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: Ransom volunteered to run as vice-chair and Ratcliff agreed to run as chair. Heise moved to accept Ransom as vice-chair and Modrow seconded. All approved. Heise moved to accept Ratcliff as chair and Sweetser seconded. All approved.
- b. OHRAB Budget: Previts reported that the major 2024 expenses since our last meeting were supplies for preservation kits. Including that, there is \$300 remaining in the 2024 grant. The funding for the 2025-2026 budget has been awarded. It includes funding for the fellowship program (\$6,000) and the professional development scholarships (two at \$1000 each).
- c. OHRAB Membership: Smilnak's membership term is up. Heise moved to accept Smilnak for another term and Modrow seconded. All approved. Heise is a gubernatorial candidate and her term expires March 31, 2025. She is willing to be reappointed for another term. Hays is leaving the board on March 31 due to term limits and is an at-large appointment. Following discussion, the board asked Previts to extend an invitation to Greta Suiter at Ohio University.
- d. Committee and Organizational Updates: Ratcliff reported that she presented the Archival Achievement Award to Stephen Badenhop at the Union County Archives. Ratcliff and Shaw went to the Clark County Historical Society volunteer appreciation luncheon to present the Citizen Archivist Award to volunteer Jim Hurlahey. Dressler went to Hudson Library Historical Society to present the award to Nancy Brock.

- With the changes to the professional development scholarship, the timing of the announcement and deadline was discussed. The deadline for application will be April 15, and Ratcliff will try to begin advertising it by February 15. She also mentioned History Day is coming up in mid-April, so the committee will be reviewing entries soon.
- e. For the Re-grants Committee, Dressler reported that the application packet was revised with increase to the volunteer rates and other minor details. Previts will update the website by February 3 so it can be publicized. The proposed webinar was tabled this year and Dressler hopes to have a web application form next year. Sweetser suggested the Re-grants Committee propose to have a session about the re-grants at the Society of Ohio Archivists Spring meeting. Dressler agreed to put together a panel and Ratcliff, Modrow and Kelly offered support.
 - f. Heise reported that the Advocacy Committee continues to share news on the board's Facebook page. McKinley has joined the Advocacy Committee. Conner has two quotes for printing 500 brochures. Both printers can print the brochures before Statehood Day. The budget is \$1000, so more could be ordered in the fall.
 - g. Dressler shared that she has been in contact with the Ohio Local History Alliance and Ohio Preservation Council about potentially helping with the preservation starter kits. The kits will contain pH pens, silica gel, staple removers, acid free tissue, print envelopes and cotton gloves. A logo sticker was created for the preservation kit. These kits will be distributed to repositories as needed.
 - h. Heise shared that the fellowship application needs to be updated, and the deadline is March 31.
 - i. Dressler reported that the Cultural Heritage Summit has been renamed the Cultural Heritage and Ohio Symposium (CHaOS) which will be held June 9, 2025 at the State Library. Alison Goebel from the Public Policy Center of Ohio will be speaking about "Ohio: A Tale of Two States." OHRAB will provide \$500 to support the event.

IV. New Business

- a. The board discussed how it can support the Ohio History Day regional research days as it has \$1,000 designated for that. This year's theme is Rights and Responsibilities in History. Previts will reach out to the Ohio History Day staff before the July meeting to learn the theme for the upcoming year and to discuss further the assistance OHRAB can provide.
- b. Kelly offered to host the board at the Grove City City Hall for a hybrid meeting on April 26. At that meeting the board will determine the location for the July meeting. Ratcliff mentioned that House Bill 257 passed at the end of last year allows non-elected officials to meet virtually.
- c. Ratcliff shared that she will attend the Ohio Preservation Council meeting in February to discuss potential collaboration.

- V. **Closing:** Board members expressed their thanks to Hays for her service on the board. Modrow moved to adjourn and Hays seconded. All approved the motion, and the meeting concluded at 11:13 a.m.