

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting on January 3, 2011

Trustees present: William Berry, Dr. Gay, Cyndie Gerken, Jim Leathley, Jane Manemann, Susan Morgan, Peter Scarff, John Sipe, Ken Strickland, Virgil Studebaker, and guest Randy Young.

With a quorum present, William Berry opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the meeting on July 6, 2010 were approved.

Mr. Berry reported that Society Treasurer Pam Mustovich has not communicated with the organization. Jim Leathley reported that the treasury balance is \$1,000. Mr. Berry noted that there had been no financial activity last year, and some activity needs to be initiated before June for the account to remain active.

Mr. Berry noted that the Society failed to hold the Annual Meeting in October 2010. At that time, elections and an audit should have taken place. The Society needs to comply with the regulations for a 501(c)(3) organization. Cyndie Gerken made a motion to re-appoint Jane Manemann and John Sipe for three-year terms as Trustees. The motion was seconded by Susan Morgan, and was passed unanimously.

Cyndie Gerken recommended Cindy Gracy to audit the organization's books. William Berry recommended Ray Lowe. Mr. Berry will contact both to see if either will serve in that capacity.

The consensus of the Society was to appoint a new Treasurer. Virgil Studebaker recommended Sharon Leathley. He thought that the bonding cost was a function of the amount in the treasury. Cyndie Gerken reported that \$10,000 worth of bonding costs \$149 per year. Cyndie also questioned whether the appointment would be a conflict of interest, since she is a school employee. Dr. Gay believes that she is currently bonded.

Mr. Berry reported that little progress has been made since July. The sluggish economy has slowed our approach. For this reason and in deference to the levy, Jim Leathley reported that he has not yet called a meeting of the Finance Committee. Cyndie Gerken stated that in deference to the levy, the Society should hesitate until the May primary for further action.

It was also reported that there has been no activity with the alumni newsletter.

William Berry reported that he had not contacted Senator Weidner, owing to the state budget crisis. He stated, however, that the Society needs a strategy that looks ahead two or three years.

It was also reported that the Society did not receive ARA funds or Historic Preservation funds. Rejections were also received from The Turner Foundation and the National Road Organization. In reply to Cyndie Gerken, Jim Leathley stated that Matt Curtis had contacted Thea Walsh about Brownfield Funds, but nothing came of it. Cyndie stated that she will again contact Thea. It was

noted that Brownfield Funds cannot be used for asbestos removal, but can be used to remedy lead paint problems. In reply to a question by Ken Strickland, Bill Berry and Cyndie Gerken stated that the rejections are a function of the current economy and the small nature of the Society's project.

Peter Scarff stated that we need to exhibit a strong local base to get funding. In reply to Cyndie Gerken, Jim Leathley stated that there is no way to separate the Society from the district, certainly not in the mind of the "no" voter.

John Sipe, William Berry, and Cyndie Gerken discussed the origin, nature, and problems of The Turner Foundation, which would have seemed to be a logical source of funding for the subject project.

In reply to Ken Strickland, it was explained that the Springfield Foundation mainly funds the Arts, and that the Davidson Trust is not well-endowed. Cyndie Gerken noted that the Ohio National Road Association did receive a Davidson grant for brochures, and a promise to fund signage. Susan Morgan suggested that we start with attempting to get Brownfield Funds.

Cyndie Gerken pointed out that if the Society received a Brownfield grant, the subject building would need to be empty.

Dr. Gay replied that a suitable storage shed could be built for \$70,000 out of Permanent improvement funds. In reply to William Berry, Dr. Gay stated that the total architect fee is \$30,000. Susan Morgan suggested that we have the architect's rendering before applying for funding. Randy Young inquired about addressing the paint issue. Cyndie Gerken noted that state money can be used as matching funds for Federal grants.

Peter Scarff and Virgil Studebaker suggested that we may want to set idle for a couple of years, or at least until the levy issue is resolved. John Sipe stated the Society would not be the only organization on hold until the economy improves.

Randy Young pointed out that the Society should try to keep a project ongoing every few months to remain publicly visible. William Berry stated that he is currently writing an Annual Report which will be placed in the school newspaper, which Dr. Gay noted, will be the May/June issue.

In reply to Jane Manemann, Dr. Gay stated that he will speak with the JVS Superintendent, Brad Moffet, about using the Olive Branch Building as their annual renovation project.

Jane Manemann further suggested that cleaning and painting could be done with Clark County inmates. She has experience with such projects, and highly rated the work.

Mr. Berry reviewed the activities to be accomplished:

- 1) Cyndie will contact Thea about Brownfield Funds and any other available funding. She will also contact Nathalie Wright, Franco Ruffini, and Mary Beth Hirsh about historic preservation grants.
- 2) Dr. Gay will ascertain whether Sharon is bonded, and whether her role as Treasurer would be a conflict. He will also check with Brad Moffet regarding the use of JVC students in renovation activities. He will also check with the architect.
- 3) William Berry will contact Senator Weidner. He will also check if the Dayton Foundation can fund projects outside of Montgomery County.

Jim Leathley made a motion to amend Article 3, Section 5 of the Society's Bylaws to read that meetings would be held on the second Monday, instead of the first. The motion was seconded by Jane Manemann, and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be April 11, 2011.

Jim Leathley made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Berry adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Strickland, Secretary