

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of July 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Chairman William Berry. Trustees present were: Bill Berry, Cyndie Gerken, Sharon Leathley, John Sipe, Howard Stahl, and ex officio member TLS Interim Superintendent Paula Crew. Guest Connie Sample was also in attendance.

In the absence of Secretary Susan Morgan, the roll was called and minutes were taken by Vice Chairman Cyndie Gerken. After a review, a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 meeting was made by Howard Stahl and seconded by Sharon Leathley. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sharon Leathley provided a written report showing an ending balance as of 6/30/2015 of \$6065.37. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by John Sipe and seconded by Howard Stahl. Motion carried. The report was filed for audit.

Chairman Berry presented an update report as follows: Immediately following our April meeting Howard Stahl and I met with Mr. Stuart Sector, Business Development and Mr. Jeff York, Vice President, Construction, from C & N Contractors of Springfield, Ohio for a walk through at the Olive Branch building. They were both impressed with the historic significance of the building. Mr. Sector was especially excited as to the possibilities of how the building might be used. Mr. York spent more time evaluating the structure to determine what was going to be needed to restore the building. Many questions were asked and much of our discussion centered on our plans for usage of the facility. They emphasized the importance of arriving at a very specific plan for usage of the building before any attempt at fund-raising is undertaken. This meeting was followed up by a second meeting in June with Mr. Sector and with Mr. Plato Pavlatos, President and CEO of C & N Contractors. He, too, was impressed at the design of the building and the possibilities of restoring it.

As to the cost of restoring the building, neither Rex Manemann (who had done a previous walkthrough), nor C & N will commit to any kind of a "ball park" figure. Mr. Pavlatos has stated that doing so is premature and what we really need to do is conduct a feasibility study whereby we break down the needs of the building into phases, such as, removal of asbestos, which we already have established as Phase 1. Other items would include exterior evaluation need, such as windows, building façade needs, ditching and tiling needs, interior renovations, etc. The purpose for a feasibility study then is to establish a more realistic budget, build around the design we have in mind for the finished product, which then provides us a more accurate budget figure directed toward fund raising. He informs me that we should enlist the services of Jan Hillman who could provide us with the names of firms that conduct feasibility studies. There will be a cost for this service.

Mr. Stu Sector threw out an interesting suggestion at our June meeting that we might want to give consideration to enlarging our mission and goals for the Olive Branch building. He suggested that we

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might want to extend our project to all of Clark County, and make Olive Branch a Clark County Education Hall of Fame or Honor. This could open the doors to interest and enthusiasm countywide and provide greater fund raising opportunities. We would need to study this carefully because there may be issues and conflicts with the legality of such an action. I believe it may be worth exploring further.

John Sipe, Howard Stahl, Virgil Studebaker and I had the opportunity on Friday, July 3 to take a tour of the newly renovated/restored Bushnell Building (old Wren's Building), guided by owner Mr. James Lagos. This renovation was completed under the management of C & N Contractors. It has been restored in a manner that maintained the integrity and ambiance of the original structure while meeting current safety, health and environmental standards that are required.

Preservation Ohio has once again identified the Olive Branch Building as one of its 13 Most Endangered Historic Sites on their 2015 list. Such factors as demolition threat, abandonment, neglect, dilapidation and lack of money for repairs are circumstances that contribute to the endangered status.

Interim Superintendent Paula Crew informed us that informal bids have been received for replacing the damaged roof structure; asphalt roofing and replacing spouting and fascia repairs will also be done as an "Urgent Necessity" which allows the Board to wave going through the public bidding process. Hopefully, this work can be accomplished quickly.

The 2015-2016 Della Selsor Trust grant application has been completed by Cyndie Gerken. Chairman Berry will sign and mail it in the next week. Deadline for submission is August 31, 2015.

The OBSPS Annual Meeting will be October 12, 2015. The terms of Trustees Virgil Studebaker, Howard Stahl, and Ken Strickland are expiring and Chairman Berry will inquire as to their intentions concerning their interest in re-appointment. The October meeting will be held at Paula Crews office.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Howard Stahl. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cyndie Gerken, Acting Secretary