

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Minutes of the Meeting
July 6, 2010

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He welcomed Brad Martin, the new Assistant Superintendent. Matt Curtis has accepted another position, and will be leaving the area. Mr. Berry stated that we need to generate enthusiasm, maintain momentum, and continue to move forward in fundraising. We know that the building will be there, and will be maintained.

Cyndie Gerken reported that the ONRA Byway Coordinator, Thea Walsh is now with the Department of Urban Development in Columbus. This office handles Brownfield Funds and state historic tax credits. Hopefully, we can start immediately with Brownfield Funds for asbestos removal.

Dr. Gay reported that asbestos removal would cost \$30,000. Funds for this purpose are still available from the American Recovery Act.

Matt Curtis has applied for historical preservation grants for such purposes as architect fees and blueprint costs. These should be easier to obtain because the special project is shovel-ready. Criteria for these grants are that the project be either a local government program or that of a 501(c)(3) organization, and must be for a historical building. Mr. Curtis, Mr. Martin and Dr. Gay will contact Thea Walsh and apply for these funds.

In answer to a question, Matt Curtis stated that Central State University and others have received grants from the stimulus funds.

Cyndie Gerken noted that no funds are currently available from The Turner Foundation. Request for future consideration may be made, however. Mr. Sipe suggested monitoring The Turner Foundation for any new developments since Mr. Landis of The Turner Foundation is interested in architecture. Mr. Berry stated that perhaps the Society could receive some consideration if the subject project were clearly explained. He pointed out, however, that the issue of the Family YMCA is problematic. PNC has a lawsuit against The Turner Foundation for funds pledged, but not distributed.

Mr. Berry asked if anyone is associated with the Dayton Foundation or the DP&L Foundation. Jane Manemann suggested that Chris Weidner may be a good contact for the Dayton Foundation.

Peter Scarff inquired about the membership drive. He stated that the Society needs to demonstrate that we are doing something. He stressed a letter needs to be sent out to alumni.

In response to a question from Mr. Sipe, it was noted that the Finance Committee had not yet initiated its work.

Cyndie Gerken inquired about seed money. There is currently \$1000.00 in the bank account. The account is in the name of the Olive Branch School Preservation Society, and has been placed with Security National Bank. Checks may be sent to the Board of Education Office or to Dr. Gay.

Jane Manemann suggested that teachers who have had outstanding careers in the Tecumseh system may also wish to contribute. She further suggested that gifts for different pledge levels be offered, as in the Public Broadcasting System's fund drives.

It was pointed out that the work of the Finance Committee and letters to the alumni need to be done prior to the October meeting.

Matt Curtis said that the letters need to be sent about halfway through the football season. He suggested using the TEF letter as a sample. Mr. Sipe stated the letter should come from the Board of Trustees. He further noted that the process is two-fold. A thank-you letter should follow. He also reiterated the dilemma of memberships versus donations. He also pointed out the effort will involve thousands of letters. Mr. Sipe and Cyndie Gerken agreed that email may be less expensive, but were concerned about the effectiveness of such impersonal communication. Mr. Sipe further noted the benefit of soliciting alumni who live out-of-state. He noted that many local alumni are not as active. He also inquired about the list of alumni compiled by Cheryl Leathley for the All-Class Reunion. He further pointed out the value of annuals as sources of alumni.

Virgil Studebaker asked about the Contact Book of 2002.

Cyndie Gerken suggested that data could be collected from class leaders.

Jane Manemann pointed out that the class photographs on the walls were good sources of names.

Virgil Studebaker suggested a bulk mailing would be cost-effective. Peter Scarff stated that a company could handle the complicated process for a reasonable fee.

Dr. Gay urged the Committee to get the materials ready to mail. He also requested monthly updates to send to the Springfield News-Sun and to Kermit Rowe. Dr. Gay and Peter Scarff noted, however, that the Board of Education will be focused on the school levy from August through November. A strong line of distinction must be maintained between the levy and the OB restoration project.

Virgil Studebaker noted that the Society web site needs updated. Matt Curtis pointed out the need for a place to pledge on the web site.

Dr. Gay stated that little bits of work will maintain the momentum. Mr. Berry adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Strickland, Secretary