

**OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
OCTOBER 10, 2018**

In accordance with the bylaws, the OBSPS Chair presents this annual written report to the Board of Trustees and makes it available to the general membership. The following report reviews the activities, decisions and other such information deemed important to the operations of the Society.

The Society again received an \$800 grant from the Della Selsor Trust for calendar year 2018, which is used for our postal permit and mailings. As in the past, the Society continued to work with Digital Graphics to maintain and update the OBSPS web site.

At our January meeting, a request was made by board member Virgil Studebaker, to change the meeting days from Mondays to Wednesdays, as the Monday evening meetings created a scheduling conflict for him. Sharon Leathley noted that the organizational bylaws specifically read that meetings shall be “the second Monday of January, April, July, and October.” Given this, a bylaw change would be necessary. After a general discussion, all board members in attendance were agreeable to changing the meeting day. It was decided that we would approach the change by designating the quarterly meeting dates as being “the second week of the months of January, April, July, and October”, thereby allowing for flexibility as needed (without further bylaw change being needed). Cyndie Gerken volunteered to work on the bylaw change, and present it at the next board meeting for official vote. In addition to the above, updated Olive Branch School Preservation Society brochures were passed out to board members for review and distribution as they saw fit.

On March 2, 2018, those board members who were able to attend met with Kevin Rose (from the Turner Foundation) at “The Round Building.” The purpose of the meeting was to view one of the classrooms that we (through the cooperation with the school) have had emptied, in preparation of rehabbing the room. Mr. Rose made several suggestions regarding the “tear down” of the room’s components, getting the room “back to original”, and preservation of the room’s historical nature. It was discussed that we should attempt to repair the existing windows (rather than replace them). Mr. Rose gave us information regarding a company that Turner has used for window restoration work. We will reach out to them (at least) for price and timeline estimates.

At the April Board meeting, a bylaw change regarding the change in meeting days was presented by Cyndie Gerken. The amendment basically stated that meeting days would be “the second week of the months of January, April, July, and October”, thereby allowing for flexibility as needed. As per the current bylaws, the suggested amendment was sent out to all current board members ten days in advance, so that it could be reviewed prior to being voted upon. This amendment was unanimously approved by the trustees at the April Board meeting. Two work day sessions were scheduled to begin tearing out non-original aspects of the southeast Olive Branch classroom.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT (cont'd)
OCTOBER 10, 2018

It was noted that TLS Superintendent Norm Glismann was attending his last meeting with us, due to his pending retirement. The board offered their thanks for his service and assistance. Notation was made to invite incoming superintendent Paula Crew to future meetings.

At the July meeting, discussion mostly centered around the progress made in tearing out the nonessential aspects of the southeast room of Olive Branch. There was discussion about the potential for enlisting some experienced grant writers to assist efforts in obtaining various grants to aid in the rehab process. Cyndie Gerken advised that she would reach out to some that she has had experience with in other projects.

After the regular business meeting, those in attendance adjourned to the round building, to view the rehab progress to date. All of the drop ceiling (and supporting ceiling structure) has been removed, as has the overhead lighting, wall conduit style electrical outlets and switches, wall trim and cork board, and wall bookshelves. One pleasant surprise: It was noted during the demolition that the large wooden doors leading to the center of the building were (at one time) “pocket doors”, which slid back into the wall. During demolition, the original track and hangers were located (still within the walls) and believed to be in good condition. It also appears that the original wooden flooring (beneath the existing plywood) is in good repair as well. It was decided to not remove the plywood covering the floors at this time, so as to protect the original floor during the rehab process. Discussions were held regarding how to proceed with the room. How “modern” should it be; do we have to re-plaster, or will drywall suffice; how much (if any) electric do we add; how to handle heating/air control of the room. Advice will be sought regarding these matters, to involve persons with historical preservation expertise.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Leathley, Chairperson
OBSPS Board of Trustees