

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2011

Trustees present: William Berry, Dr. Jim Gay, Cyndie Gerken, Jane Manemann, Susan Morgan, Pam Mustovich, Peter Scarff, John Sipe, Ken Strickland, Virgil Studebaker

Interested Parties present: Debbie Brandt, Orv Detrick, Howard Stahl & guest, Kathy Wright, and Joan Brandt.

The minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting were approved.

Pam Mustovich, treasurer, reported a balance of \$1001. Mr. Berry reported that the required audit had been conducted by Ray Lowe. All was found to be in order.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Berry reported that Jim Leathley has resigned, serving three of the six years of his term. He will need to be replaced. Jane Manemann and John Sipe were reappointed to a two-year term; Cyndie Gerken, Bill Berry, and Susan Morgan are currently serving four year terms. Ken Strickland and Virgil Studebaker are serving six year terms. Mr. Berry noted that the Society has been “spinning its wheels” owing to the serious economic concerns both personally and nationally. There was, therefore, no purpose to hold a July meeting. He encouraged the Society, however, to remain optimistic and enthusiastic so as to not miss this opportunity. It is important to remember that our goals are long-term. Every project has a beginning, a struggle, and a victory. The Executive Committee met about two months ago, and agreed to move forward, and to keep the community aware of our project.

The bylaws call for establishment of active and honorary memberships. There is concern, however, that low membership fees may be confused with substantial donations by donors. The Society has refrained from seeking funds in order not to confuse a fund drive with school levies. Dr. Gay reported, however, that the levy has failed seven consecutive times. Mr. Berry noted that this approaches the sad record of nine consecutive defeats in the 1970’s. Mr. Berry further noted that the Olive Branch building is owned by the Board of Education. The OB School Preservation Society was formed in order to work to have the school placed on the National Register, and to obtain funds for restoration. Foundations, such as the Davidson Foundation and the Dayton Foundation, however, have suffered financial difficulties, also. We do need operating funds, however.

Debbie Brandt found enthusiasm for the subject project at the 1971-72 class reunion. She suggested the membership route, obtaining addresses from reunion publications. She suggested targeting alumni who attended Olive Branch or had a relative attend the School. She pointed out that donations may be received from the class as a whole. She pointed out that there are 30, 40, and 50-year reunions annually. She also suggested that a photograph of Olive Branch School be placed on the City of New Carlisle calendar. She noted also that Ray Snell (class of 1966) photographed all yearbooks of the 1960’s, and put it online. She noted that classmates thought the Olive Branch building was a nice

country school, and they loved the new buildings. They need to see some activities in progress, however. Mr. Berry agreed that cleaning the exterior, landscaping, and the “thermometer sign” proposed by Jim Leathley could be such activities. Virgil Studebaker proposed that a sign be erected.

Jane Manemann stated that when the new schools were built, a photographic collage of all the old buildings was created, and sold for \$80. She asked if anyone knew how many were sold. These could be sold at class reunions. She asked if shop classes could do the framing. Membership dues of \$10 could be lethal to the project. Howard Stahl suggested the membership dues be annual, so that funds would continue to be received.

Pam Mustovich pointed out that the Society could easily incorporate advertisements on Classmates.com. Debbie Brandt noted that the class reunion was advertised only on Facebook, with no cost, and the reunion had very high attendance.

Virgil Studebaker pointed out that a mailing list would be a daunting activity. A brochure or letter to hand out is needed. Cyndie Gerken showed the brochure produced by the Ohio National Road Association as an example. Cyndie agreed to assist in creating a brochure, but requested the finance committee furnish addresses. Virgil Studebaker suggested starting with class reunions. Scott at Digital Graphics was recommended for printing the brochures. Pam Mustovich recommended comparing pricing with 3G Graphics. She also recommended a donation s of \$50, \$100, and \$250 for five year, ten year, and life memberships, respectively.

Virgil suggested a graduated membership of \$10-\$100, \$100-\$500, and \$500-\$1,000. Virgil also suggested the history of the School be included in the brochure. Also, he suggested that information for inclusion in a will be included as well as the address where to send donations. Pam Mustovich suggested that donors making a significant contribution be listed on a sign. Debbie Brandt stated that this was done with the new library. Jane Manemann proposed that a membership form be published in the newspaper. Jane further advised that 5,000 Heritage of Flight brochures were printed for \$550. These could be handed out at athletic events, etc. Debbie Brandt also suggested a program to honor parents with an engraved brick to be placed in a walkway around the school.

In reply to a question from Pam Mustovich, Dr. Gay reported that five or six reunion classes request a tour of the Olive Branch School annually, usually in July. Some come through him, and he therefore, has a number of alumni rosters created in 2000. They may be out-of-date, however. Bill Berry noted that the class of 1952 will hold its 60th reunion, next August. Mr. Sipe reported that he has a large number of class directories. Debbie Brandt volunteered to work on compiling lists of alumni.

Mr. Berry reported that the Olive Branch School Preservation Society has a new e-mail address: olivebranch@Tecumsehl.org. Website is www.tecumshk-12.oh.us/preserveob.

Dr. Gay reported that the THS Facebook page will put our news under “Support Tecumseh.” Jane Manemann directed the Secretary to report such news.

Pam Mustovich stated that donations need to be received by her for proper recognition for tax purposes. Dr. Gay stated that it is not a problem to make donations at the Board office. Checks must be made payable to the “Olive Branch School Preservation Society.”

Deb Brandt reported that Mrs. Brandt has the old clock from the subject school. Mrs. Acton’s desk has also been saved. Kathy Wright asked if groups would pay for tour of the old building. Another idea for a fundraiser would be a Christmas dance in the old rotunda. She also asked if children could do art work in the old building. Dr. Gay pointed out, however, that only one room is heated. Bill Berry stated that tours could be arranged. Activity is necessary to keep the project in the public eye. Mr. Berry also pointed out the need for a Finance Committee.

It was pointed out that Tom Stafford would be pleased to write an article.

Jane Manemann stated that she would like to have photographs made of the subject building. It was thought that Virginia Cox may have a suitable copy. The photographs could be sold for about \$24. Both a framed and an unframed copy could be displayed. Pam Mustovich suggested asking people to pre-order the photographs. Ken Strickland showed a postcard with the 1915 building.

Jane Manemann further proposed that a Connecting Link article be written with a donation form.

Debbie Brandt and Cyndie Gerken stated their intention to have the brochure, complete with membership levels, produced in time for the senior luncheon. Jane Manemann suggested putting trustee names on the brochure. Also for recognition purposes, ladies should include maiden names.

Mr. Berry stated that the Executive Committee will work electronically with Cyndie and Debbie on the brochures. This must all be in place by December 2, 2011 for the senior banquet, and for distribution at basketball games. Mr. Berry thanked all in attendance for their input.

Virgil Studebaker made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Berry adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Strickland, Secretary