

ONRA MINUTES
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
Columbus Health Department

Call to Order: President Cyndie Gerken called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following Board members were present: **Cyndie Gerken, Ed Kemper, Dean Ringle, Elizabeth Reeb, Jan Livingston-Brady, Nancy Campbell, Frank Quinn, Larry Bicking, Ed Wagstaff, Denna Johnson, Jeana Paglialunga, Marian Vance, Mike Peppe, and Judy Williams.** Staff members Thea Walsh, Louis Agresta, and TCC Secretary Melanie Runkel were also present. President Cyndie welcomed potential Board member Bil Kerrigan to the meeting.

Board Appointments: President Cyndie has accepted the resignation of Jeff Lowe and Scott Hockenbery, both are from Madison County. Jeff Chorpenning has chosen not to be reappointed to his Licking County seat. Jon Beard has also chosen not to be reappointed to his At-large seat. As an alternative, Jon is willing to serve as an ex-officio. In addition, Jon is drafting a script for a National Road web video that can be used for corporate sponsorship presentations and educational purposes. Bob Young, the new ODOT Scenic Byway Program Manager, joined the meeting in progress and expressed willingness to serve on the Board as an ex-officio.

Cyndie reviewed the following Board members willing to accept reappointment to terms expiring on January 31, 2013: Jeana Paglialunga, Mary Ellen Weingartner, Jan Livingston-Brady, Jane Lightner, and Doug Smith. A motion to approve the reappointments was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Dean Ringle. Motion carried.

President Cyndie reviewed all those interested in appointment to the Board to terms expiring on January 31, 2013: Bil Kerrigan, Charla Devine, and Alan King, as well as proposed ex-officio appointees Jon Beard, and Bob Young. A motion to approve the appointments was made by Ed Wagstaff and seconded by Dean Ringle. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2009 annual meeting (with one spelling correction) was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Jeana Paglialunga. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Denna Johnson reported that since the report was prepared (at the end of December), an additional \$1,000 in memberships have been received, as well as more money for the Harper Fund. More rack cards have been printed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Judy Williams and seconded by Elizabeth Reeb. Motion carried.

Coordinator's Report: Louis Agresta presented the following report:

Coordinator services billing – Louis reported that the total service billing for November and December was \$5,457.32 with 80% (\$4,365.85) being submitted to ODOT for payment and 20% (\$1,091.44) to be paid by ONRA. A motion to approve payment was made by Larry Bicking and seconded by Dean Ringle. Motion carried.

Interpretive sign bid package – Louis reported that eight bids were received for the Interpretive Signage project. After scoring all the bids, it was determined that Interpretive Graphics Company from Salt Lake City, Utah had the highest quality bid. This is the same company that produced the Madonna of the Trail sign. Thea Walsh explained the scoring/ranking process as well as reviewed the budget with the Board. She also stated that she would like to see 20 signs installed this summer, another 20 signs by the fall, and the last 20 signs by spring of 2011. Board members raised concerns regarding the warranty for the signs in the event of damage or vandalism. The grant is for reimbursement only and alternatives will be looked at for money to be set aside for maintenance. A motion to accept the ranking for the Interpretive Signage project was made by Dean Ringle and seconded by Elizabeth Reeb. Motion carried.

Current Grant Opportunities – Louis reported that ONRA did not receive funding from The Turner Foundation for their 2009 grant request. ONRA was awarded \$1,250.00 from the Della Selsor Trust. Louis will be applying for a Think TV advertising grant through the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and also for a Miami County grant to help fund the remaining sponsorship of the Phoneton sign.

Membership Renewals – Twenty-six mailings were sent out in November with 13 renewals. An additional 148 mailings will be sent out to those members who have not renewed their membership within the last couple of years.

Old Business:

Glenn A. Harper Endowment – President Cyndie updated Board members on the progress of a fundraiser being planned to coincide with the release of the new edition of the *Traveler's Guide*. A wine tasting and silent auction had been suggested and Cyndie has received confirmation that such an event could be held on the grounds of the National Road/Zane Grey Museum. A date has not yet been set for the fundraiser, but Chairperson Glenn Harper is considering sometime in May or June. Thea Walsh reiterated to the Board that in order for the legacy of the group to continue, such an endowment fund should be created in every community along the National Road. Preservation grants promote sustainability and ONRA can't rely on Federal or state grants for this funding.

Denna Johnson related that she has been working on a project with Louis that could possibly bring in more money for the endowment. It deals with low to moderate income housing restoration work. They have been working with PNC Bank.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Marketing – Denna Johnson reported that ONRA has the opportunity to be included in the one of the filler pages in the next printing (scheduled for the fall) of *The Historic National Road Yard Sale Cookbook*. This page would include information about the Road and ONRA. There is no fee for the page, but the author is requesting that she receives the page as copy ready as well as receiving 50 recipes to be placed in the Ohio section. The author would like everything to her by March 1st. Denna also reported that *Ohio Magazine* has offered ONRA a small ad in the March issue for \$450. She has also pitched them the idea of putting ONRA's contact information in a sidebar. Board members raised concerns regarding the price for the ad and the profitability. President Cyndie added that the Executive Committee voted in the past not to place an ad in the magazine as it was not profitable. Mike Peppe moved to not accept the \$450 price for a small ad, but to see if Denna could get ONRA a header and footer listing for a maximum of \$200. The motion was seconded by Dean Ringle; motion carried.

New Business:

President Cyndie announced that ONRA's Vice President, Doug Smith, would not be able to attend any 2010 Board meetings due to a scheduling conflict and had offered to step down from the Board. It was suggested that the meeting day for ONRA be changed, but Doug was reluctant to ask ONRA to do this. Board members discussed changing our meeting time, but no decision was made. Thea Walsh brought up the idea of extending the current President's position for another year. President Cyndie could not commit to that at this time. Bil Kerrigan suggested using an online program called Doodle as a way to see what times would work best for everyone if a meeting change will be needed in the future. Dean Ringle said that since the meeting dates have already been published, he would speak with Doug about a possible change to ONRA's 10:00 a.m. meeting time.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Jan Livingston-Brady and seconded by Jeana Paglialunga. Motion carried.

Minutes compiled by Melanie Runkel and respectfully submitted by Secretary Ed Kemper