

ONRA Minutes
Bi-monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2011
Columbus Department of Health

Call to Order: President Dean Ringle called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. The following Board members were present: **Dean Ringle, Marian Vance, Mary Ellen Weingartner, Ed Wagstaff, Ed Kemper, Charla Devine, Mike Peppe, Cyndie Gerken, Denna Johnson, Jane Balchan, Paul Seibel, Alan King, Sylvia Miller**, and ex officio members **Frank Quinn** and **Judy Williams**.

Secretary's Report: A correction was noted and made regarding the Reciprocity Bridge Clean-up Update to change "state property versus public property" to "state property versus private property." A motion to approve the corrected March 29, 2011 minutes was made by Marian Vance and seconded by Jane Balchan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Marian Vance presented the May 2011 Treasurer's Report, noting revenues and expenditures balances. A motion to accept the report was made by Paul Siebel and seconded by Jane Balchan. Motion carried.

Coordinator's Report: ONRA Byway Coordinator Melanie Runkel submitted a written report which included three invoices requiring Board approval along with Grant Status and Membership Renewals.

Coordinator Services Billing - Two invoices are for the Signage project: the March 2011 invoice is \$1288.38 with 20% ONRA share at \$257.67; the April 2011 invoice is \$6,189.50 with 20% ONRA share at \$1,237.90. The Marketing grant invoice from February-April is \$3,504.00 with the 20% ONRA share at \$300.00. (20% is of the \$1500.00 for the art print = \$300.00) A motion to approve payment was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Paul Siebel. Motion carried.

Grant Status – ONRA received word from ODOT in late April that we were awarded a National Scenic Byways grant to update the Corridor Management Plan. The total of the grant is \$100,000 and ONRA is responsible for providing the 20% match. ONRA has applied for a 2011 National Scenic Byways grant to fund a "Mile Marker Restoration/Replacement Project." Applications were due on May 23rd, and an award announcement for this grant cycle is estimated to be October 1, 2011.

Membership Renewals – Ms. Runkel reported that there were 12 membership renewals and 3 new memberships received. Please remember that Board member dues were to be turned in during January. In order to remain an active Board member, your dues must be current. Membership renewal letters were sent out at the beginning of April and May. There are also plans to send out membership renewal letters to those members who have not renewed in several years.

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Committee Reports:

Marketing Committee – Chairperson Denna Johnson reported that the Ohio National Road playing card decks have arrived and are currently being distributed. The monies collected are a donation to ONRA. There was discussion regarding distributing a “desk copy” of the playing cards to museums and historical societies. Twenty-four decks will be made available for this opportunity to “give back.” A motion was made by Cyndie Gerken to distribute a “desk copy” deck (to non-profits and historical groups that are placing the cards in their gift shops) and seconded by Marian Vance. Motion carried. There was brief mention of two new projects to be considered in the future. They are glass Christmas ornaments and articles of ONRA logo-embroidered clothing.

Membership Committee – President Ringle plans to meet with Ms. Runkel to discuss ways to increase membership opportunities.

Endowment Fundraiser Committee – Judy Williams reported that September 16, 2011 is set for the fund raiser dinner that is planned to take place at Jerry and Jacki Gross’ restored Toll Road house on the National Road/US 40 in Lewisburg. This event should “take us over the top” to launch the Harper Endowment this year. More details to come.

Signage Committee – Louis Agresta has made contact with the manufacturing company for the warranty replacement of the first 15 signs due to fading and the appearance of white areas within the sign body. Replacements of five have begun and the remainder will be forthcoming. Alan King will be working to design an interpretive sign for the National Road/Zane Grey Museum. He received the template at today’s Board meeting.

Old Business:

Reciprocity Bridge Clean-up – It seems no clean-up has taken place as of this week, therefore, President Dean Ringle will obtain the guidelines for clean-up procedures. It will be necessary to apply for a permit and to organize for the project. There was discussion regarding a pleasant and informative dialogue with the nearby property owner prior to any work taking place.

National Road Bicentennial Caravan of Bells May 1-7 – Marian Vance reported that this National Road Alliance event was extremely successful during the May 3-5 Ohio leg. There was great press coverage, considerable public turnout, superb organization and cooperation among entities which resulted in a successful trip for all participants. President Dean Ringle suggested that a travelogue with details of the caravan’s trip could be put together that would show the pride that was demonstrated across the state during this event. Cyndie Gerken has placed photos on the ONRA website, and has been in contact with the eight caravaners who made the entire trip.

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Spring Newsletter – The Spring Newsletter is completed and at the printer, and should be available by the National Road Yard Sale.

Historic National Road Yard Sale Days – The National Road Yard Sale begins June 1st and runs through June 5th with Saturday, June 4th emphasized as Super Saturday. Many communities, businesses, groups and individuals participate in this unique opportunity to travel along The National Road and combine shopping, history and fun.

New Business:

Replacement Mile Markers – Since ONRA has applied for a grant to fund a “Mile Marker Restoration/Replacement Project,” we will need to form a sub-committee to assess locations for replacement of missing markers and information for those in need of repair, as well as to do research for materials and methods that could be used.

Bus Tours – Chairperson Lynn Kartavich was unable to attend today’s meeting, but has shared an interest from two church groups to participate in a National Road bus trip during late summer or early fall of this year. She will update at a later time.

National Road Bicentennial Conference – Saturday, June 4, 2011. Sylvia Miller is a presenter at the conference that is to be held at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA. There will be a Keynote Presentation by Dr. Robert J. Kapsch titled “The National Road and the American Transportation Revolution“ and a Featured Exhibit: “A Work Worthy of a Great Nation: The Bicentennial of the National Road.”

Facebook Page - It was discovered that there are three ONRA Facebook pages. There was discussion about combining those pages and adding a link from the ONRA web site.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Peppe and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM. Next Board meeting date is July 26th in Room 119C of the Columbus Dept. of Health Building.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Mary Ellen Weingartner.