

ONRA MINUTES
Bi-Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
ODOT - Columbus

Call to order: President Cyndie Gerken convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Board members present included: **Ed Wagstaff, Elizabeth Reeb, Mike Peppe, Scott Hockenbery, Denna Johnson, William Hart, Cyndie Gerken, Ed Kemper, Doug Smith, Lynn Kartavich, Paul Seibel, Marian Vance, Nancy Campbell, Jonathan Beard, Sylvia Miller, Dean Ringle, and Jan Brady.** Ex-officio members: **Glenn Harper and Mary Anne Reeves.** Staff: **Thea Walsh, Glen Massie, and Zach Balassone.** Others present were former Board member Charla Devine, Jeff Lowe, Mike Gebhart and Beth van Haaren.

Presentation: President Cyndie recognized our Past President Denna Johnson and thanked her on behalf of ONRA for her outstanding dedication and leadership during her Presidency. Among the many legacies Denna leaves is the successful effort to raise ONRA's \$32,000 in matching funds to secure a Federal Highway grant for the Interpretive Sign project. Denna was presented with a digital picture frame with photos from her two years as President.

New ODOT Scenic Byway Chief: Paul Staley, ODOT's former Scenic Byway chief was present to introduce his successor in that position. He introduced Mr. Robert Young, who commented that he was looking forward to working with us in the future. Mr. Young will also be serving as the ODOT Historian.

Board membership & appointments: A letter of resignation was received from Ray Martin of Madison County. A motion to accept was made by Doug Smith and seconded by Lynn Kartavich. Motion carried. President Cyndie commented that she wants to fill all our currently vacant Board of Directors' positions. Toward that end, two new appointments were made. The first new appointee was Jeff Lowe, West Jefferson businessman, to fill the newly vacated Madison County seat with a term to expire 1/31/10. Motion to accept was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Mike Peppe. Motion carried. The second appointment was Mike Gebhart, Bethel Twp. Administrator, to fill the long-vacant Miami County seat with a term to expire 1/31/12. Motion was made by Paul Seibel and seconded by Dean Ringle. Motion carried.

Officer change: Lynn Kartavich tendered a letter of resignation from the Treasurer's position. Denna Johnson will fill the position on a temporary basis. A motion to accept Lynn's resignation and to appoint Denna as Treasurer was made by Jan Brady and seconded by Marian Vance. Motion carried. President Cyndie thanked Lynn for her past service as Treasurer and for her on-going work in arranging our National Road bus tours.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting were briefly discussed. A motion to approve was made by Doug Smith and seconded by Paul Seibel. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Denna Johnson presented the Treasurer's Report and answered questions about our updated reporting of ONRA's finances. A motion to approve the report was made by Jon Beard and seconded by Sylvia Miller. Motion carried.

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Coordinator's Report: Glen Massie introduced himself as our new byway coordinator. He is taking over for Zach Balassone who was promoted to a new position by Clark County.

- **Ohio Magazine** - Glen reported that we have had 87 responses to our latest Ohio Magazine ad, requesting the *Traveler's Guide* and information regarding ONRA. As of May 22nd, 66 follow-up letters had been mailed.
- **Interpretive Signs** - Zach Balassone reported that nearly all of the 30 Phase I signs are edited and ready to be printed. There will be an additional 30 signs in the second phase. Committee Chair Mike Peppe said he's working with ODOT to get approval on the sign locations. President Cyndie commented that it's important for the signs to start going up as soon as possible so that donors can see progress. Mary Anne Reeves asked about graffiti or vandalism concerns. Zach said the signs are made of "top quality" materials and that the surfaces can be cleaned should it happen.
- **Yard Sale** - The 4th Annual National Road Yard Sale begins Wed., May 27 and runs through the weekend. Glen Massie thanked Jeff Chorpenning for posting National Road yard sale info on his web-site. Charla Devine said that in Licking County work on the garage sale is year-round. She also said there will be something about the Licking Co. event on the NBC Mid-Day show. President Cyndie commented that Licking County is a "great example of how to do the garage sale program."
- **Byway Grant Agreement** - Two agreements were submitted for Board approval. The first is ONRA's FY 09 coordinator services agreement with Clark County-Springfield TCC in the amount of \$31,250. ODOT will provide 80% and ONRA will provide the balance of \$6,250. Doug Smith made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Denna Johnson. Motion carried. The second agreement is for the interpretive sign program in the amount of \$200,000 with ODOT providing 80% with ONRA's share being \$40,000. A motion to approve was made by Paul Seibel and seconded by Elizabeth Reeb. Motion carried.
- **Coordinator Services Billing** - Billing submitted covers the cost of coordinator services for March - April '09. 80% of the \$10,253.06 is submitted to ODOT for payment and 20% (\$2,050.60) is to be paid by ONRA. Denna Johnson made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Jon Beard. Motion carried.

Glenn Harper Resignation and Recognition: President Cyndie altered the agenda making a special presentation to Glenn Harper who recently retired from the Ohio Historical Society and is resigning as of this date from the Board. A dozen proclamations were presented to Glenn from ONRA, the Governor, counties and communities all across the Road in Ohio, recognizing his status as one of the founders of ONRA and his years of work in promoting the ONRA mission and programs. The climax of the presentation was the announcement of the establishment of the Glenn A. Harper Endowment for Preservation on the Historic National Road in Ohio.

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Committee Reports:

- **Traveler's Guide Edit Committee** – Final edits meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2009. Cyndie thanked Doug Smith and Jon Beard for their Guide contributions of Franklin County's historic value to The Road. Doug Smith expressed the importance for ONRA to hold the copyright to the new edition of the Traveler's Guide. Doug also shared an article from the Columbus Dispatch which highlighted Camp Chase.
- **Committee Memberships** – Cyndie spoke about the need for renewal of committee commitments. Members were asked to think about committees that they may be best suited for the Board will re-visit the issue at the July Meeting.

Nancy Campbell updated the Board on the Blaine Hill Bridge's Historic National Registry. Nancy also encouraged everyone to attend a meeting on August 28, 2009 at the State Library, 10:00am.

Dean Ringle spoke about the original National Road alignment through the City of Columbus and expressed a need for correct signage.

Doug Smith and Glenn Harper expressed the need for the signage committee to accept the task of reviewing signage needs for original segments of The Road from US 40 and also signage from I-70 to US 40.

Old Business:

Doug Smith recapped the April 29th meeting in New Concord.

In light of the OHS financial situation. John and Annie Glenn Museum is looking an opportunity to partner with OHS to manage the Zane Grey Museum.

Miscellaneous:

- **Next Meeting:** July 28, 2009 to be held at the National Road - Zane Grey Museum.
- **Scenic Byways Conference:** August 23-26 in Denver, CO. Denna mentioned that this would be a great experience for ONRA Board members and encouraged everyone to attend.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Denna Johnson and seconded by Lynn Kartavich. The meeting adjourned at 11:58am.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Kemper, ONRA Board Secretary

