

1994

Directors Meeting

Florida Historical Society
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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1994) "Directors Meeting," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 73 : No. 1 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol73/iss1/11>

FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
January 29, 1994

The semiannual meeting of the officers and board of directors of the Florida Historical Society was convened at 1:15 P.M. at the Porcher House, Cocoa, January 29, 1994, by David H. Colburn, president. Those attending included Raymond O. Arsenault, Patricia Bartlett, Canter Brown, Jr., Hampton Dunn, J. Larry Durrence, Jan F. Godown, Milton Jones, Joe Knetsch, Marinus H. Latour, Stuart B. McIver, Thomas Muir, Susan R. Parker, Gordon Patterson, George E. Pozzetta, Daniel L. Schafer, Jerrell H. Shofner, Rebecca A. Smith, Cynthia Putnam Trefelner, Patsy West, and Lindsey Williams. Also present were Executive Director Lewis N. Wynne, Associate Director Emily Adams Perry, and the Society's secretary, Marilyn Potts. President Colburn introduced new members of the board, and Nick Wynne briefly described the history of the Porcher House.

Marinus Latour and Emily Perry reported on the Roesch House restoration. The Society has received a zoning variance from the city of Melbourne to permit the Society to use the Roesch House as its headquarters, although the area is zoned for residential use. The city's planning department requires three parking places: one handicapped space will be placed at the Roesch House, and the other two spaces will be located on the vacant parcel of land just to the north of the Rossetter House property. Architect John Parks of Tampa has prepared drawings for the restoration. The Society is soliciting bids, due February 8, 1994, from general contractors for the restoration. Good local publicity has resulted in the donation of services such as fumigation and title searches. Nick Wynne added that on December 7, 1993, the Roesch House was designated a Brevard County historic landmark and that a player piano is being given to help furnish the house. Dr. Colburn thanked Emily Perry for her efforts.

The minutes of the May 1993 meeting, as printed in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, were approved.

Those present reviewed the 1993 financial report and discussed related issues. Nick Wynne and Dr. Colburn noted that the income statement for 1993 was slightly better than 1992. Nick

Wynne reported that the 1993 annual meeting in Pensacola grossed \$8,000. Nick Wynne noted that the Rossetters donated \$100,000 for the Roesch House restoration and moving expenses and that annual appeal donations total \$9,665. Dr. Colburn reminded the board that when the Society moves to Melbourne it will lose the University of South Florida's secretarial support. He also asked for marketing ideas for *Florida Portrait*, the state history published by the Society, and cautioned the Society against committing to future book publications.

Dr. Wynne reported that 1993 expenses mainly fell into two categories: personnel and office costs (telephone, travel, supplies, etc.). The increase in office expenses resulted from operations at two locations and from travel to Pensacola. He also noted that the Florida Historic Records grant was received in 1992, but expenses occurred in 1993.

Nick Wynne displayed the most recent issue of *Journeys for the Junior Historian*, and Editor Susan Parker thanked him for his work on the issue. President Colburn pointed out that *Journeys* is operating at a \$3,000 annual deficit and asked that the board at some point consider ways to reduce the deficit. Patsy West suggested contacting the meeting of the state's social studies teachers as a way to market it to teachers. Dr. Wynne recommended that the Society absorb *Journeys for the Junior Historian* costs for a few more years in the hopes that it will become self-sufficient. Susan Parker noted that the magazine has received a number of in-kind donations.

Nick Wynne proposed to deaccession and sell the James Bard painting of the *J. Sylvester*. He observed: 1) although the *J. Sylvester* traveled the St. Johns River for a time, the painting pertains to the Hudson River rather than to Florida; 2) the Society needs funds for supplies and labor to care for its collections; 3) the Peabody Museum has expressed an interest in the painting; 4) the James D. Julia auction house (which specializes in such materials) estimates a value of \$45,000-\$60,000; 5) all funds received from the sale would be used for collections care. Those present discussed the proposal. The library committee has considered related ethical issues and is rewriting the collections policy to define better the Society's acquisitions interests.

Marinus Latour presented the library committee report. The committee met in Tampa on November 20, 1993. University of South Florida archivist James Roth attended the meeting and reported on collections care needs. Roth discussed the necessity of

replacing storage folders and boxes with archival containers, estimated at \$10,000 for supplies. The committee considered deaccessioning the Bard painting and voted three to one to recommend deaccessioning. The collections manual has been rewritten and is being reviewed by the committee. Mr. Latour reported: 1) the committee agreed that the Society should maintain and expand its collection as a resource for researchers; 2) these collections should focus on information of regional, state, and national importance to Florida; 3) local materials should be referred to local societies; 4) where no adequate local society exists, materials should be referred to regional repositories or acquired by the Society; 5) the Society should limit its collections to two-dimensional materials (books, papers, etc.).

Marinus Latour suggested a five-year program for collections. Those present discussed the collections needs and proposals, including: 1) whether the Society should collect modern, in-print publications; 2) immediate needs (\$10,000 for supplies and \$18,000 for labor); 3) the uncertainty of long-range costs; 4) possible locations for the collections. The proposed five-year program was tabled until later in the meeting.

Marinus Latour made a motion that the Florida Historical Society's board authorize the deaccession of the Bard watercolor, *J. Sylvester*, for sale through an auction house or to a museum— the reserve price to be not less than \$45,000. The proceeds from this sale are to be used only for the preservation of the Society's collection; that is, for the purchase of materials and necessary services. An amendment to the motion was made and approved to change the reserve price to not less than \$52,500. The motion, as amended, was approved. A motion was made and approved to spend \$25,000 for the purchase of paper storage materials and for the care of the collection, subject to the sale of the Bard painting.

Those attending reviewed the proposed 1994 budget as presented by Dr. Wynne. The budget is based on the assumption that the Society headquarters will remain in Tampa through 1994. Dr. Wynne submitted three alternative budgets, incorporating the following scenarios: 1) employing an associate director full time, selling the Bard painting, and rehousing the collection; 2) not employing an associate director, selling the Bard painting, or rehousing the collection; 3) not publishing a newsletter, employing a half-time associate director, and not selling the Bard painting. Board members extensively discussed the proposed budget. A mo-

tion was made and approved to adopt the first of the three proposed budgets.

Marinus Latour made a motion that the Florida Historical Society commit to a five-year program for the preservation, housing, recording, and organization of the Society's collection, with the following goals as a guide: 1) First Year (1994) – a) purchase the needed collection storage materials; b) adopt a collections management, procedure, practices, and policy manual, including a collections statement; c) decide on a temporary or permanent site in Brevard County for the relocation of the Society's collection; d) begin planning for a capital campaign to fund the Society's resource center. 2) Second Year (1995) – approve plans for a capital campaign for the resource center. 3) Third Year (1996) – complete financing and begin work on the resource center. 4) Fourth Year (1997) – employ a full-time archivist/curator. 5) Fifth Year (1998) – the Florida Historical Society's Florida Resource Center opens.

Those present discussed the motion, noting, among other things, the need for flexibility, the ongoing search for a temporary or permanent site, and the implications of committing large expenses and running a capital campaign. It was emphasized that the motion proposes goals rather than makes commitments and can and should be changed in the future. The motion was approved.

President Colburn reported on the activities of the Florida 150th Anniversary Committee: 1) Committee chairman Gary Mormino has resigned from the committee; 2) Senator Graham had a staff member contact the National Archives and Library of Congress concerning the Sesquicentennial, and the National Archives has expressed an interest in preparing a traveling exhibition. Senator Graham has expressed an interest in promoting an event at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Joe Knetsch reported that he has been contacting people in Florida, and local support is good. Susan Parker announced that the St. Augustine Historical Society is planning a three-month celebration with, among other things, a commemorative tee shirt. Nick Wynne mentioned that the Society is planning thirty second to one minute public service announcements for television. The Florida Humanities Council will seek proposals for 1995. Tom Muir suggested that a letter of support be submitted to the state legislature mentioning past legislators who were active in the Society.

Dr. Pozzetta presented the *Florida Historical Quarterly* report. He has a backlog of manuscripts. Several procedural changes have

occurred: 1) a new editor; 2) new offices; 3) a separate budget entry in the University of Florida budget. He reported one problem, a \$500 shortfall in funds for postage. A motion was made and approved to authorize the executive director to provide additional funds, if necessary, for postage for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

A location for the 1996 annual meeting was discussed. Verbal or written proposals have been received from Miami, Key West, and Melbourne. A motion was made and approved for the Society's annual meeting to take place in Brevard County in 1996.

Nick Wynne presented the membership committee report. Brochures have been distributed to board members for use in recruiting new members. Rodney Dillon is compiling a list of individuals to chair a recruitment committee for each county.

Those present discussed expanding the board with five at-large members, which was approved at the May 1993 business meeting. A motion was made to enact the proposal to add five at-large members, to be elected at the May 1994 business meeting. An amendment to the proposal was made and defeated to add three at-large members rather than five. After considerable discussion the motion was approved ten to eight.

Dan Schafer reported that sixty-three proposals have been received for the annual meeting program.

Milton Jones submitted a motion to require that any proposed amendments or changes to the bylaws be submitted in writing in advance. After discussion the motion was withdrawn, to be revised and resubmitted at the May 1994 board meeting.

Milton Jones made a motion to revise the bylaws concerning the editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*: 1) Amend Article II to eliminate Section 2 entirely; renumber existing Sections 3 through 9 to be Sections 2 through 8; change the reference in existing Sections 4 and 5 to Section 3 to reference new section 2. 2) A new Article V would provide: Article V— Editors of Publications, "The Board shall appoint the Editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and Editors of the Society's other publications to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Editors shall not be officers or Board members." 3) On adoption of the new Article V, the existing Article VI would become Article VII; existing Article VII would become Article VIII, and existing Article VIII would become Article IX. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS. . .

1994

Sept. 28- Oct. 1	American Association for State and Local History	Omaha, NE
Oct. 14-16	Southern Jewish Historical Association	Raleigh, NC
Oct. 27-30	Oral History Association	Albuquerque, NM
Oct. 26-30	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Boston, MA
Nov. 9-12	Southern Historical Association	Louisville, KY

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Jan. 5-8	American Historical Association	New York, NY
Feb. 6-12	Florida Archaeology Week	
March 30- April 2	Organization of American Historians	Washington, DC
May 18	FLORIDA HISTORICAL CONFEDERATION	Tallahassee, FL
May 18-21	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 93RD MEETING	Tallahassee, FL

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