

1996

Directors Meeting

Florida Historical Society
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MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 20, 1996

The Board of the Florida Historical Society met at the Holiday Inn on Merritt Island on Saturday, January 20, 1996, for its semi-annual meeting. In attendance were:

Marinus Latour, President	Larry Rivers
Larry Durrence, President-Elect	Jim Roth
Raymond Arsenault	Dan Schafer
Patti Bartlett, Secretary	James Schnur
Bill Coker	Jerrell Shofner, <i>Quarterly</i>
Mike Denham	Patrick Smith
Jose Fernandez	Robert Taylor
Maxine Jones	Cynthia Trefelner
Jenifer Marx	Ted VanItallie
Marilyn Potts, Finance	Nick Wynne, Executive Director

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. Marinus Latour reviewed notable changes in the Society since our last meeting in May 1995.
2. Executive Director Nick Wynne reported on moving our offices and items from the University of South Florida in Tampa to Melbourne. Wynne and a crew of temporary workers packed and moved 175 boxes of back issues of the *Quarterly*, office furniture, unaccessioned documents, files, and other materials. The cost was around \$3,000 and took four days to complete. Items moved from Tampa are currently stored in the Educational Annex at Roesch House. The organized collection of materials is still located in the Special Collections Department of the USF Library and, according to our agreement with USF, can remain there until the end of the Summer 1996. Wynne thinks the university will grant us an extension of time if we need it. Alternative storage spaces have been identified and will be used if necessary.
3. No lease between the City of Cocoa and the Society for the old Federal Building has been worked out as of yet, but staff workers for the City have assured Wynne that the action will be completed in 3-5 weeks. Once the lease is signed, the Soci-

- ety can apply for preservation grants to fund the renovation of the building to library specifications. Because of the need to administer the FHS library as a separate entity, Milton Jones, the Society's attorney, has suggested the creation of another 501 (c) (3) corporation to oversee the facility. A motion to do this was made by Patti Bartlett and seconded by Jenifer Marx. Marx asked if the creation of a new corporation would prevent our using available FHS funds for the library and vice-versa. Wynne assured her that this could be handled, if necessary, internally. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Wynne indicated that if everything went as planned, the library could be opened by the end of 1996. Jose Rivera, a local contractor, has agreed to do the renovations for the cost of materials and labor, and *Scotty's* has agreed to provide the materials for cost. John Parks, the architect of the Roesch House, will do the preliminary drawings for free. Brevard Community College has agreed to renovate one room of the building as a distance learning classroom.
 5. Wynne reported on the status of the Rossetter Trust endowment. The nieces and nephews of Miss Carrie have brought suit for \$200,000 against her former nurse. Both Milton Jones and Marinus Latour feel that one of the family's purposes may be to obtain nuisance money.
 6. Larry Durrence reported on the 1996 FHS budget. Copies of the proposed budget were provided to the Board members and showed a projected deficit of about \$8,000 between anticipated revenue and projected expenses. Dr. Wynne explained that the Society's cash problems are typical of state societies. Some of the projected deficit can be explained by the failure of the 1995 meeting to show a positive balance and the limited response to the 1995 Annual Appeal, which generated only about \$6,000. The Society is negotiating with the Kislak Museum and with Sotheby's to sell the cigar lithographs acquired four years ago.
 7. Board members suggested that alternative income sources should be explored, including sponsored issues of the *Journeys* magazine. Increased membership would also alleviate some of the projected deficit. Patrick Smith noted that the Brevard County area was responsive to fund-raising activities, and he and Wynne agreed to meet in the future to discuss some of them. Ted VanItallie suggested that the Society con-

- tact industry leaders and ask them to support specific programmatic activities. He suggested that a list be created to provide potential sources of corporate support. After further discussion, a committee was appointed to develop a fund-raising program and to submit it to the Board at its May meeting. Larry Durrence will chair the committee, and Cynthia Trefelner, Ted VanItallie, Jenifer Marx, and Patti Bartlett will serve as members.
8. Wynne asked the Board to approve the establishment of a "line of credit" with a local bank to be used if needed. Jenifer Marx made the motion for approval; Bill Coker seconded the motion; and the Board unanimously approved the proposal.
 9. An invoice for \$1,000, submitted by Sam Proctor for compensation for serving as interim editor of the *Quarterly* after the death of George Pozzetta, was brought to the attention of the Board with a request for approval/disapproval of payment. After much discussion, Jenifer Marx made a motion to disapprove the payment of the invoice. Robert Taylor seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Nick Wynne was instructed to write a letter (with the assistance of Milton Jones) to Dr. Proctor informing him of the Board's decision.
 10. Jerrell Shofner reported on the status of the *Quarterly*. The Spring issue is ready, but Dr. Shofner asked that an effort be made to solicit more articles for future issues.
 11. Bill Coker reported on the status of the Search Committee's efforts to find a permanent replacement for Dr. Shofner as editor.
 12. President Latour handed out committees assignments for 1996.
 13. No further business was brought up. The Board adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The Board then went to lunch and visited the Cocoa Federal Building library site.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS . . .

1996

Sept. 7-10	American Association for State and Local History	Nashville, TN
Oct. 10-13	Oral History Association	Philadelphia, PA
Oct. 25-27	Southern Jewish Historical Association	Miami, FL
Oct. 30- Nov. 3	Southern Historical Association	Little Rock, AR

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Jan. 2-5	American Historical Association	New York, NY
April 17-20	Organization of American Historians	San Francisco, CA
TBA	Florida Anthropological Society	TBA
May 29	FLORIDA HISTORICAL CONFEDERATION	Jacksonville, FL
May 29-31	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 95TH MEETING	Jacksonville, FL

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