

1998

Directors Meeting

Florida Historical Society
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MINUTES
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Saturday, January 23, 1998

The Board of the Florida Historical Society met in Cocoa at the library building for their semiannual meeting. In attendance were:

Patti Bartlett, Secretary
Tom Bowman
Bill Coker, President
J. Allison DeFoor III
Kari Frederickson
George Franchere
Tom Graham
Pam Hall

Sandra Johnson
Marinus Latour, Immediate
Past President
Doug Milne
Niles Schuh
Robert Snyder
Ada Coats Williams
Lindsey Williams

Nick Wynne, Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by president Bill Coker. He welcomed the board members and turned the floor over to Executive Director Nick Wynne.

New Business

Status of the Rossetter Endowment— Dr. Wynne began the agenda by discussing the Rossetter endowment. The agreement, signed in November of 1991, conveys \$2.75 million plus antiques and property to the Florida Historical Society upon the death of both sisters. The surviving sister, Miss Carrie, will be 100 years old in March.

Financial Report for FY 1997— The financial report for 1997 was reviewed. Income was \$99,375.00 and expenses were \$93,408.56, leaving a surplus of \$5,966.44. Two new sources of income were memorials and the Jim Horgan bequest. Dr. Wynne explained that the expense side of the balance sheet reflected Dr. Kari Frederickson's exemplary work in holding down production expenses for the *Quarterly*.

The projected budget for FY 1998 was reviewed. Anticipated income is \$132,750; the projected expenses are \$67,200, leaving an

anticipated surplus of \$15,500. A new item on the expense side of the ledger is \$30,000, the historical library/management fee. Dr. Wynne explained that this is the Florida Historical Society's anticipated share of the expenses of the Cocoa library building. The library building will be sold by the City of Cocoa to the Florida Historical Library, Inc., on April 1st. The management fee will be the Society's share of the costs involved in operating the library building. Dr. Wynne asked the board to approve a Florida Historical Society Executive Board recommendation that the Society agree to pay the Florida Library Foundation a yearly allotment of \$30,000 for the Society's share of the lights, phone, and office space.

Income sources for FY 1998 include the possibility of renting out the grounds adjacent to the Rossetter garage and the garage itself for weddings and receptions. The sale of some deaccessioned items was also discussed. The Society owns some bird prints given to the Society by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The birds depicted in the prints are not native to Florida. The prints are badly in need of restoration; the cost of such a restoration six years ago was \$5000. Lindsey Williams commented that the Society has an obligation to take care of the items it owns or to place the items where they will be taken care of. Allison Defoor asked if we could try to place the items with a public institution before placing them in private hands. Dr. Wynne said that many times an individual buys a deaccessioned item and then donates it to an interested public institution, as happened with our Bard painting which now has been donated to the Mystic Seaport Museum. Allison DeFoor moved that (1) the prints be deaccessioned with the income going to capital expenditures, and (2) that we prefer the sale be made, if possible, to a public institution over a private individual. The motion was seconded by Niles Schuh. An amendment was offered and accepted that (3) an appraisal of the items be obtained before the items were deaccessioned. A second amendment asked that the income from the items be split between capital improvements and collection management. To move the motion along it was agreed to vote first on items 2 and 3, and then for item 1. Items 2 and 3 passed, with no opposition. Item 1 carried with the income being used for capital expenditures, with three votes for the income being split between capital expenditures and collection management.

The proposed budget for FY 1998 was discussed. Placing the income from the deaccessioned items was removed from the income

side of the ledger, which changed the anticipated surplus of \$15,500 to a deficit of \$4000. The board agreed that this would produce a realistic, although unbalanced budget.

The status of the Library of Florida History— Since the library opened, some 4500 visitors have come into the building. Software has been purchased for cataloging, and the library now has 5 full-time volunteers. On April 1, the building will be purchased from the City for \$199,000.

Later in March, Pioneer Days will bring re-enactors, craft booths, and Florida history book authors to downtown Cocoa. Attendance is expected to reach twenty to forty thousand. The event will benefit the library. Another fund-raiser is planned for November 1998, when Mrs. Alma Clyde Field will host an event in her historic home.

The FHS Quarterly report was given by Dr. Kari Frederickson. The winter issue should be received by subscribers this week. Articles for the spring issue have been chosen. In the near future, special issues will be dedicated to Florida's involvement in the Civil War and Florida women. The prospect of going to a digital format is being explored. Dr. Frederickson is currently seeking articles relating to Florida before the Civil War.

Membership report— Dr. Wynne said our membership is growing, with 2300 members at present. The increase is partially due to Dr. Wynne's heavy speaking schedule and the individuals who come into the library building.

Annual meeting— Ray Arsenault has arranged presentations for three concurrent sessions, leaving the afternoons and evenings free for tours; one tour is planned for Ybor City. The reception will be at the Tampa Bay hotel. Table space will be available to book vendors and authors.

Old Business

Standards Committee report— Bob Taylor recapped for the board the purpose behind the establishment of the Standards and Review Committee. The committee was set up last year to explore the site of the *Quarterly*, possible editorial directions, and to set minimum requirements for an editor. One of our aims is to appeal to a wider audience. The committee has recommended that the *Quarterly* should be housed within an institution of higher learning within the state of Florida; that institution should be willing and

able to provide physical and financial support including a half-time faculty member editor; an editorial assistant; secretarial and administrative assistance; at least one member of the Florida Historical Society Board be able to serve on the selection committee for that editor. Although we currently are housed quite amicably at UCF, our contract expires in 2001 and we must have a plan in place should the agreement not be renewed.

Items from the floor— Pam Hall asked that the *Quarterly* be placed on compact disk. The last ten years are not yet indexed, and placing the back issues on a CD would make their contents key word accessible. The index for each new volume of the *Quarterly* is on the Society's web site: www.florida-historical-soc.org.

Dr. Wynne said that our computer network person will develop a homesite for the Florida Historical Society, which would include a subscription service. Cost of that network will be paid by the income from banner ads on online publications. Allison DeFoor suggested selling notecards, replica maps, books and posters online (that site will be www.florida-historical-soc.org).

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.