Council Meeting
September 04, 2025
02:00 pm – 03:30 pm CST

Present: President Troy Reeves, Vice President Sarah Milligan, First Vice President Mark Cave, Immediate Past President Kelly Elaine, Councilmembers: Shanna Farrell, Francine Spang-Willis, Abby Perkiss, Anna Sheftel, Executive Director Stephen Sloan, Associate Director Steven Sielaff, Program Associate Hailey Rowe
Others Present: OHA Graduate Assistant Stephanie Bartlett (first 5 minutes)
Minutes Prepared by: Program Associate Hailey Rowe

Agenda	Discussion & Decisions	Action Required	Responsible Party
Welcome 2:02PM	Hello to Stephanie (OHA Graduate Assistant) - introduction and explanation of work and hello again to Hailey (OHA Program Associate) Opening thoughts with Nishani Frazier - It's been both a joy and frustration to serve the OHA- disappointed that OHA did not address political evils in a full throated way - Hope that future OHA does more to support the human spirit as pressure mounts within the current political climate - Shared a quote from Christian Theologian's Robert Hudnut's book*, A Sensitive Man and the Christ*		
Consent Agenda	APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 08042025 COUNCIL MEETING: *Troy Reeves moves to approve the August minutes; Mark Cave seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.*	Post minutes on website	Hailey
Present Business	Thanks from Troy for in-between meeting votes Troy thanks council for attention to recent votes		
Present Business	Discussion re: end of July's Council Meeting (All)		

	Indigenous Caucus is meeting tomorrow (9/5) so hasn't had a chance to discuss Kelly Elaine assumed Francine would be the liaison to the Indigenous Caucus - in the future would like someone from council to represent on each caucus as a liaison Francine - going forward Francine does not speak for the Indigenous Caucus, if she is the liaison, needs confirmation of that. She was balancing 3 roles at the same time. Caucus was mostly upset because the document was worked on together and then changed without consultation Sarah - notes the confusion of Francine's two roles - caucus co-chair and council member - thinking council should do a better job of safeguarding council member's time - should we articulate more clearly so that someone else on council doesn't get put in this same position Anna - every meeting we seem to discuss how caucuses work and so it seems reasonable to try and formalize council roles, many crises in the next few years - how do you decide which is the most urgent? Troy - since the caucus is meeting tomorrow, would like to see the proposed language for the application form going forward. Francine has confirmed she will bring their decisions back to council. Nishani - need to adjust protocols about position dualities What does a councilperson do or not do? Difference between a caucus and committee (how does caucus interact with council?) If we do this	Write out these to offer as a formal apology to Indigenous Caucus	Sarah to send to Troy and Francine to

	form again, how do we make sure both council and caucus say all they need to say? *Kelly Elaine Navies moves to make a formal apology to the Indigenous Caucus for how this played out, Abby Perkiss seconded, unanimously passed at 2:28pm.*		share with the Caucus (Completed 9/4 and 9/5)
Present Business	<u>2025 Annual Meeting: Final Update (Sarah w/Sloan)!</u> Finalizing the print program, it is going to be a great program. Finalizing the 3rd of 3 off-site opportunities: Presidential reception will be at a sports bar - working out logistics for transportation - Keynote with Bettina Love on the GSU campus (student union) - Finalizing details on the block party on Saturday (Project South), Daniel Horowitz used to work there and is helping out with securing the location Great tours to choose from. Budget is looking good despite registration numbers AV: Together with AFS, society of ethnomusicology, buying AV equipment for future conferences. Will save a lot of money		

Present Business	<u>Committees, Task Force, Updates/Discussion (Troy & those listed below)</u> a. Feedback from Committee Chairs* & next steps (Troy w/Sloan). i. Lack of time, limited engagement w/ committee volunteers (should try and find a more systemic way to recruit/retain), should look at the Diversity committee as an example/success story, 2 kinds of low engagement (ghosts and overpromising in the meeting and underdelivering) ii. Shift in volunteerism as a whole iii. Let committees set the agenda for what they want to achieve iv. Chairing limited to a year - there is no consistency with leadership v. Race and power - was successful for 2 years because they were working on something concrete - idea for an oath to induce passion? vi. More social opportunities for committees *Will continue this conversation in the October meeting.* b. Finance Committee (Mark w/Sloan): changing our investment strategy. i. OHA's endowment has passed the million dollar mark ii. Been in discussion with the finance committee about how investments are allocated - changed ratio, 30% is now in short term reserves (about $365,000) iii. Encourage council to look at the asset mix iv. This fund is important because it will eventually allow OHA to pay for itself c. Advocacy Committee (Nishani, Anna, or Kelly Elaine): Statement?	Finance Committee will meet then propose a change, then present to Council at October meeting	Finance Committee

	i. Need final draft approval for the academic freedom statement ii. Approval from council email vote - Straw poll votes - looking for majority approval - Two votes made via email since the last meeting: 1. Voted 9-0 in favor of signing onto the ACLS statement regarding the white house interference with the Smithsonian institution 2. Voted 8-0 to approve the constitution bylaw changes that are out to membership now d. Open question: when are annual committee reports due? i. End of business day on Oct. 1	Bring committee report submission link to committees. Link was sent by Hailey to council on 9/4	Committee Liaisons
Present Business	<u>Caucus Talk (Troy)</u> a. Updated draft* of the Caucus FAQ document. Next steps? i. Hopes to have it ready soon to be read for feedback - will we need to update the bylaws to further define what a caucus does b. And if time, discussion about what should appear about a caucus on our public site? Member site? Larger question: who decides? i. Will continue commenting on this question later	Review & comment on Caucus FAQ column	All
Present Business	<u>Updates from the Executive Office (Sloan & Sielaff)</u> a. Retention Policy/Procedure Documents*: Comments & next steps. i. Both documents are ready to be looked at - would like more comments before meeting in Atlanta, goal is to have it in place at the end of the year	Comment and give feedback on documents	All

	ii. Feedback: What we do with personnel files, searching for institutional host files, correspondence within the subcommittee - how many emails (if any?) should be saved, more than minutes (do we need to save anything past the minutes for volunteer entities) b. Oral History Defined, version 2.0*: Comments & next steps i. Last edits have been made ii. Document is available to review - look at this by Oct. 1 so we can vote on it Oct. 15 c. Anything else? i. Made a taskforce (Lu Ann Jones, Tomás Summers Sandoval, Todd Moye) for the NPS master cooperative agreement ii. Meeting with the NPS partners 9/10, task force created a one-pager to give to NPS for what the OHA can do for NPS	Take a look at document by Oct. 1	All
Present Business	<u>Public Programming updates:</u> a. Feedback from July & August events. (From any/all who attended.) i. Mark - enjoyed hosting the event in LA and would like to have another in the next fiscal year. Appreciated getting the local members together ii. Kelly Elaine - same feelings as Mark in DC but would like to do another, spending more time on publicity iii. Shanna - Public programming lunch & learn, good feedback and about 50 attendees iv. OH & Law webinar had 58 register for both b. Any events happening between now & the Annual Meeting?		

	i. Shanna - was supposed to host a Bay Area meetup but is trying to reschedule for some time before the conference c. Reminder of new OHA calendar of events.		
Present Business	Strategic Plan: a. Update on google sheet* & next steps before the October meeting? (Troy & Sarah). i. Working through the strategic plan one pager ii. Updated things and will continue to work on it - will have a discussion at the October council meeting b. Per strategic plan, Sarah & I have proposed language* to add to 2 webpages. i. Will give a reminder of the changes in a follow up email ii. May need a vote in October	Review changes sent	All
Future Business	2026 Annual Meeting Update (Mark) a. Finished the CFP - theme is Landscapes of Memory b. Meeting again next Monday to discuss keynotes and plenaries c. Hailey is working on submission portal d. Working on adding people to help under the conference co-chairs		
Future Business	9/30 Business Meeting: please register & attend. a. Troy will send that agenda in advance, but here's the current draft. b. Symposium folks: you're on the agenda, so prepare accordingly.		
Future Business	Last meeting: October 15th (Wednesday), 9a-5p Central, at the Atlanta Hotel! a. Shanna Farrell will offer our final Opening Thoughts.		
	Meeting Adjourned at 3:26pm.		