Council Meeting
October 15, 2025 -
Sky Boardroom - Crowne Plaza Atlanta Midtown
09:00 am – 05:00 pm EST

Present: President Troy Reeves, Vice President Sarah Milligan, First Vice President Mark Cave, Immediate Past President Kelly Elaine Navies (Virtually), Nishani Frazier, Shanna Farrell, Francine Spang-Willis, Abigail Perkiss, Anna Sheftel, Executive Director Stephen Sloan, Associate Director Steven Sielaff
Members Absent: Program Associate Hailey Rowe
Others Present: Holly Werner Thomas, Kate Scott, Geraldine Richards
Minutes Prepared by: Hailey Rowe

Agenda	Discussion & Decisions	Action Required	Responsible Party
Welcome	*Opening thoughts by Shanna*		
Consent Agenda	APPROVAL OF SEPT. MINUTES: *President Troy Reeves moves to approve the September minutes, Nishani Frazier seconds the minutes. All approved. Minutes passed.* *President Troy Reeves moves to approve the update of the IRB White Paper, Sarah Milligan seconds. All approved.*	Post minutes on website	Hailey
Present Business	Action Items from 9/4 Council & 9/30 Business Meetings ● Updating webpage, re: Statement/Sign-on Statement Process* (Troy & Sarah)? ○ Nothing on either webpage about who to contact or how we as a council sign on to things ○ Should any items being signed onto go through advocacy committee? ○ Document from advocacy committee may help clear up confusion in the language	Update the draft for further discussion at Dec. Council meeting	Troy & Sarah

	○ Question was asked about the Palestine statement and where that landed. ● OH 101 White Paper* (Troy, Shanna, Kelly Elaine, and Sielaff) ○ Lecture builder is built into the platform where you can upload videos - asking content creators to work with Udemy for formatting - people making the content would be hired by the OHA (OHA would own the content) *Mark Cave moves to approve the OH 101 White Paper, Shanna Farrell seconds. All approved.*		
Present Business	Committee Work: Discussion on Action Items ● Finance (Mark & Sloan) & asset re-balancing policy* ○ Shared past investing practice of putting 60% stock and 40% in money market - finance committee approved to up it to 70% stock and 30% money market. ○ There's a lot of money sitting in short-term resources, idea is to possibly use it for bond funds ○ Martha Ross money is in general endowment ○ Stephen Sloan looks at endowment daily, only investing in one asset class ○ Looking at diversifying even further ○ Part of the strategic plan is to build the endowment *Finance committee moved to approve the asset and rebalancing policy, Abby Perkiss seconds, all agree. Motion is passed.* ● Development (Troy & Sloan) & Cuba Trip* ○ Liked the idea of fundraising ○ Discussion came up about future domestic trips		

	○ Vanessa is handling everything for the Cuba trip, OHA will just promote ○ Keep development committee in the loop, they have a flyer made *Mark Cave moves to approve the Cuba trip, Nishani Frazier seconds. All approved. Motion passed.*		
Present Business	Executive Office Updates/Discussion, Part 1 (Sielaff) … Report ● Retention Policy/Procedure Documents*: Final discussion & vote ○ Gave more time on the retention policy for comments/review to hopefully then finalize now (at Annual Meeting) ○ There is written evidence of the archive, Todd Moye is okay with this ○ There will be live links on the retention policy once it is live. ○ For the procedural document, how much should we be collecting regarding emails? At what level should this happen? ■ Executive office, president correspondence, official executive office communication with committees & caucuses ■ Worried about the comfortability of this level of an ask when thinking about volunteer leadership ■ Look at collecting from committee chairs on any official communication with council ○ Liaisons should encourage committees to keep using the OHA drive ○ Still thinking about how social media should be prioritized in terms of archiving *Sarah Milligan moves to adopt the policy, Mark Cave Seconds. All approved, motion passed.* ● Oral History Defined*: Final discussion & vote *Sarah Milligan moves to approve the second draft to move to copyediting, Francine Spang-Willis seconds. All approved, motion passed.*		

	• Social media & web updates
	  ○ Rachael Gilg is a great help with the website, does side projects occasionally that she is happy to help with
	  ○ Officially downloaded all twitter content and is ready to delete
	  ○ New platform considerations are Blue Sky and Threads
	  ○ Substack was recommended for future consideration
	  ○ Calendar is live on the website
	  ○ Now using Fathom Analytics which gives a monthly report
	  ○ All images on website now have Alt text
	  ○ FOH tool was updated a few days ago, 142 members total listed. Point independent practitioners towards using it
	  ○ Working on transferring OHR blog to our website
	  ○ New statement on Banning Ideas is now on the website
	• Process for OHA Partner Member to collaborate on a grant w/OHA
	  ○ Would like to see if there is a way for OHA to collaborate on grants with partners and/or independents
	  ■ Possibly could appoint a working group to tackle this		

Present Business	<u>Caucus Discussion</u> • Any follow up from Indigenous Caucus, re: IIRF (Francine)? ○ Francine gave the formal apology to the group - did not get a chance to bring up the fund at the most recent meeting • FAQ Document* & Next steps?		

	○ Caucus should be considered more of an interest group rather than a working group ■ How should council be communicating with caucuses? ○ Currently working on a better form of council meeting orientation ○ May bring more clarity if wording was revised to note that caucuses are not expected to do anything but may be “tapped” by council to create a working group for a task ○ As an example: archives interest group did a report twice a year and it was helpful to have a liaison to council ○ Anyone on council or executive office level may benefit from focusing solely on that (OHA leadership-wise) ○ Abby Perkiss volunteered to be the "liaison" for the caucuses - possibly needs a different name other than liaison so not to confuse members of their role	Get list of members of the caucuses Work on adding clarity to the FAQ document based on council discussion	Abby Anna & Troy

Present Business	Strategic Plan (Troy/Sarah) ● Review Google Sheet* (focus on objectives & strategies) & answers to the questions? ○ Are these still our objectives & strategies for next year & beyond? ■ Strategic plan was built to be a working document to hold council accountable ■ Council should either vote to extend current plan and update the objectives or create a new plan ■ Discussed adding an objective for membership support ■ Action plan survey report could align with strategic plan edits ■ The goal is to get to a point at the end of 2026 to have a modified strategic plan ■ Current plan runs through 2026 and will try to institute new one in 2027 - goal is to share the revised plan at 2026 Annual meeting		

Present Business	Committee Work ● Public Programming & International (Shanna) ○ Would like to get funding approved for next year's speakers at events - asking for $500 ■ Council can make this work - could charge a registration for events to offset speaker cost ○ Only 3 active members, great group that understands the charges ○ Reported no direct communication from Committee on Committees with chairs and current members (which new members are rolling on and new chairs/liaisons) ■ Sarah and Troy will attend Committee on Committees meeting to help with this ○ The executive office thanks the committee chairs and sends new member appointments each year. Stephen will CC the chair and liaison on new appointment emails ○ International committee ■ Report goes over applicants for IOHA ● Membership (Abby) ○ Great committee, 2 members are cycling off ○ Evaluate peer mentorship program and coordinate newcomer's breakfast		

	○ Evaluated the membership survey and decided to create a more action-oriented series of surveys rather than one large one Sloan talked about IOHA fund giving a bit: ● Little over $6000 was given to support IOHA scholarships ● IOHA doesn't meet again until they go to Macau so considering just becoming an institutional member for now. ● Considering a funding agreement in the future ● Would like the international committee to get back to what this committee does in service to OHA Liaison Appointments: Committee on Committees: Sarah Milligan Development: Troy Reeves Membership & Caucuses: Abby Perkiss Nominating Committee: Alissa Rae Hudson Diversity: Francine Spang-Willis Advocacy: Anna Sheftel Emerging Professionals: Fanny Garcia International: Mark Cave Publications: Public Programming & Education: Adrienne Cain Darough		
Present Business	***OHR* report*** with Holly Werner Thomas ● Molly Todd presented at business meeting ● OHR being seen as international is exciting ○ Being at IOHA was a great experience ● Receive a lot of submissions/interest from China ● Trying to invite more people in through the editorial board ● Discussed the AI policy and how it could be added to the submission portal - need to ask Geraldine what can be done ● Tough to find peer-reviewers and article submissions ● Sara Sinclair will be an editor on the Indigenous edition		

	○ Have at least one Indigenous and one general peer reviewer on each article		
Present Business	**From the Executive Office, Part 2** (Sloan) … **Report** ● Budget Talk* (current and 2026 too) ○ Will work to approve 2026 budget in December ○ Stephen Sloan went through the 2026 budget line by line with some notes on 2025 spending ○ Possibly increase executive office travel line ○ Is AV too low? ○ In future reporting, we will pull out tours/workshops/registration out of the registration line ○ Holly and Molly will receive an increase in honorarium ○ Newsletter editor is paid $3000 and travel to annual meeting - received 81 applicants		
Present Business	L&E Taskforce **Report*** with Kate Scott ● Introductions ● Great group of people on the task force ● Established short-term goals: ○ Educate community through webinars ○ Survey community of practitioners on needs ○ Build a response guide on the issues ■ More of an internal document but happy to share with council ● There is a need for a point person that can help practitioners with the legality of the practice ● Could possibly extend the task force	Share resource guide with council	Kate Scott
Present Business	2028 Annual Meeting w/ Sloan ● Hopes to have sites to look at at the December meeting, looking at Southwest area ● Officially announcing 2027 joint meeting with AFS at Presidential reception		

Present Business	<u>Committee Work: Discussion on Action Items</u> ● Publications (Sarah), if more discussion, re: white paper, is needed ○ Pulled together a template for the white papers ○ Reaching out to Mark and Shanna for creating a reading list for next year's conference/symposium Committee on committees made some appointments and rosters should be finalized soon		
Future Business	<u>2026 Annual Meeting in Portland (Mark Cave)</u> ● Molly and Debbie are co-chairs ● Have a spreadsheet going of potential speakers ● Haven't started fundraising yet but will soon <u>Proposed Meet-ups during Midwinter Meeting (Shanna)</u> ● Regional Oral History network would like to launch in Fall 2026 ● Weekend of Mid winter, would like to have a Portland and Seattle meetup <u>2026 Summer Symposium (if anything new since Business Meeting)</u> ● Monthly updates should be sent to Sarah or Sloan ● Rates will be ready to vote on during Dec. meeting <u>2027 Annual Meeting (w/AFS) in Chicago (Sloan)</u> ● Joint meeting with AFS November 3-7, 2027	Put Shanna in touch with Teresa Bergen	Mark
Present Business	<u>Routledge report w/Geraldine Richards</u> ● Geraldine reviewed the submitted report. No major questions or comments arose.		
Final Thoughts	<u>Regional Organizations w/ OHA</u> ● OHA is interested in having strong regional organizations ● Maybe an opportunity for a task force to put together a guide for future regional orgs. Adjourned at [4:30pm]		