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Charitable Advisory Council

Minutes

August 3, 2026

Advisory Council members in attendance: Rev. Dr. David Ball, Meghan Cummings, Mary Gallagher, Monica Moloney, Jane Pfeifer, Tom Poulson

Ohio Attorney General's Office Charitable Law Staff: Section Chief Dan Fausey, Assistant Section Chief Thadius Townsend, Director of Charitable Outreach and Education Beth Short, Charitable Outreach Coordinator Lynette Santoro-Au, Assistant Attorney General Derek Heyman

Call to order-Rev. Dr. David Ball called the meeting to order at 10:04am

Introductions-Beth Short introduced Assistant Attorney General Derek Heyman who spoke for a few minutes about himself

Minutes from the May meeting were approved unanimously with a Motion from Monica Moloney and a Second from Mary Gallagher.

Updates from the Sector

Dan Fausey and **Beth Short** related AG Wilson's desire for the Council to continue its service until the end of the year. A new administration will have the privilege of appointing members of the Charitable Advisory Council. A final draft report, from **Rev. Dr. David Ball**, will be shared at the next meeting, November 16, 2026. **Meghan Cummings** shared the Sector continues to face challenges with budget cuts, programming gaps, funding challenges. Grant applications have increased, and her members share the money is being reduced in order to serve more nonprofits. A lot of stress is being reported by nonprofits across the state. They are hiring a policy person at Philanthropy Ohio. OANO is facing financial challenges and in danger of closing, it's critical currently to have this resource. **Jane Pfeifer** shared the IRS is revamping the 990, **Beth Short** remarked that NASCO is sharing its perspective with the IRS regarding these changes. **Mary Gallagher** voiced her concern over the reduction in support of public health agencies. **Tom Poulson** is seeing the same stressors

in nursing facilities. Baby Boomers underscore the need for more construction of facilities to meet demand.

Updates from the Charitable Law Section

AAG Derek Heyman shared information about a recent case. This lawsuit seeks to transfer charitable assets from a defunct organization to an active one. The Rossville-Springcreek Historical Society was established in 1979 to preserve artifacts and areas settled by formerly enslaved people who were freed under the last will and testament of John Randolph, a U.S. Congressman from Virginia. The Rossville-Springcreek Historical Society acquired the African (Jackson) Cemetery and two small parcels nearby as part of its charitable mission; however, its articles of incorporation were cancelled in 1996 and its only known trustees died without appointing successors. The cemetery and nearby parcels are its only remaining assets. The Attorney General seeks to reform the charitable trust of the Historical Society and to have the properties transferred to an active nonprofit corporation, Land of the Freed. Formed in 2023 Land of the Freed mission is to support the revitalization of the African (Jackson) Cemetery where the founder's ancestors are laid to rest. This work aligns directly with that of the Rossville Springcreek Historical Society, Inc.

Section Chief Dan Fausey discussed the national phenomenon affecting small colleges and universities facing significant financial distress. Many are tempted to make use of restricted funds to pay the bills. However, anything other than using the funds for their intended purpose requires the advanced notice and permission from the office. Board members must ensure donor intent is honored and any deviation requests are properly handled, otherwise they are breaching their fiduciary duties.

Adjournment—Having no other business for the good of the order, and with thanks for everyone's attendance and participation, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26am