President Kay Turner called the Fall 2017 meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 8:15 am on October 18, 2017, in the St. Croix II Room of the Marriott Minneapolis City Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Members present: President Kay Turner, President-Elect Dorothy Noyes, Wanda Addison, Barry Bergey, Katey Borland, Norma Cantú, Guillermo de los Reyes, Lisa Gilman, Jim Leary, and Jeff Todd Titon. Members absent: Olivia Cadaval and Phyllis May-Machunda. Staff members Lorraine Walsh Cashman (Associate Director), Tim Lloyd (Executive Director), and Meredith McGriff (Membership Director) were also present.

As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, the proceedings of this meeting were recorded.

Kay Turner began the meeting by welcoming Board members to Minneapolis and by thanking the Board’s three members who will be departing at the end of the year—Norma Cantú, Lisa Gilman, and Jeff Todd Titon—for their leadership and service. Tim Lloyd distributed gifts from the Board—ice fishing decoys handmade by craftsman Rick Whittier of Lidgerwood, North Dakota—to the departing members.

Tim Lloyd briefly outlined the voting procedures that would be used during the meeting. Every Board vote taken at in-person meetings will be conducted orally, and immediately after each vote the Executive Director (or other staff member) will confirm the vote tally orally with the Board. On any vote that is not unanimous, or for which any member is absent, the minutes will list all members who vote for and against the motion, abstain from voting, or are not present.

After discussion, Katey Borland moved that the minutes of the Board’s April 7-8, 2017, meeting be approved as presented. Norma Cantú seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, with 11 votes in favor and one Board member (May-Machunda) absent.

Kay Turner than delivered the President’s report, focusing on her work to broker a minority internship-financial support partnership of the University of North Carolina folklore program and the Smithsonian’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; the “Why I’m a Folklorist” video series; and efforts now underway the strengthen the relationship between the Society and the Modern Language Association. In the discussion that followed, Board members raise the examples of several other learned societies, including the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Ethnomusicology, with which the Society might create closer partnerships.

[Olivia Cadaval entered the meeting during this discussion.]

Tim Lloyd then delivered the Executive Director’s report, focusing on a summary of Society’s financial standing at the end of the last fiscal year on August 31, an announcement that Roz Rini Larson had been appointed to be the Society’s graduate assistant for 2017-2018, and a summary of AFS fundraising work for grants and contracts since the Board’s last meeting in April 2017.

The Board then concluded the public portion of its meeting with a discussion of process to be followed in the day’s interviews of finalist candidates for the Society’s Executive Director position, and in the Board discussion and evaluation of these finalists that would follow today and in subsequent days.
Dorothy Noyes moved that the Board meeting be adjourned. Lisa Gilman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, with 11 votes in favor and one Board member (May-Machunda) absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am. At that time, the Board went into executive session for the interviews with executive director finalist candidates, and the recorder was turned off. [Phyllis May-Machunda entered the meeting during this executive session.]

Supplement to the Minutes of the Executive Board’s October 18, 2017, Meeting

On October 29, 2017, convened for an email discussion of the appointment of the Society’s next Executive Director, Kay Turner moved that the Board offer the position of Executive Director to Dr. Jessica Anderson Turner, effective February 1, 2018. Dorry Noyes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

April 13, 2018

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

April 13, 2018

Dorothy Noyes
President