

**WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

ENTITY: WSHS Board of Trustees
DATE: Saturday, September 21, 2019
LOCATION: Washington State History Museum
TRUSTEES PRESENT: Ryan Pennington, President, Alex McGregor, Treasurer (by phone), Jennifer Kilmer, Director, Krist Novoselic, VP East, Sally Barline, Natalie Bowman, Suzie Dicks, John Hughes, John Larson, Jerry Price (representing OSPI Superintendent Reykdal), Mark Wales, Secretary of State Kim Wyman, Senator Hans Zeiger

PRESENTATION: Michael Fiegenschuh, Mithun

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Finley, Tribal Liaison, Susan Hesselgrave, Executive Assistant to the Director, Camille Perezelsky, Director of Philanthropy, Mary Mikel Stump, Director of Audience Engagement

- I. Call to Order
Called to order at 9:02 am, President Ryan Pennington presiding.

- II. Consent Items approved unanimously (motion by John Hughes, seconded by John Larson)
 - a. Minutes June 6, 2019 Meeting [Exhibit 1]
 - b. Future Board Meeting Schedule [Exhibit 2]

- III. Election of Board Candidate: Brock Lakely [Exhibit 4]
Natalie Bowman moved to elect Brock Lakely as WSHS Trustee. Motion was seconded by John Hughes, and was passed unanimously.

IV. Introduction of New Staff

Director of Philanthropy

Camille Perezelsky joins us as Director of Philanthropy, bringing over a decade of experience working in the philanthropic sector. She has driven successful non-profit fundraising efforts for organizations such as the Princes Trust, The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the University of Washington and the Washington State University Murrow College of Communication. Camille holds an M.A. in Arts Administration and Cultural Policy from Goldsmiths, University of London and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Clarinet Performance from the University of Oregon. She resides in the Dash Point area with her husband, 1 year old son and two toy poodles.

Tribal Liaison

Michael Finley joins us in the newly created position of Tribal Liaison. Born and raised in Inchelium, Washington, Michael is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and he has twice served as chair of the Colville Business Council. He has also served as first vice president to the National Congress of American Indians. He earned his Bachelor's degree in History with a minor in American Indian Studies in 2003, and a Masters in History in 2005, all from Eastern Washington University, where he now serves as a trustee. He is a published author, and is now working on a second book, on The Palouse. Michael will be working primarily from Eastern Washington, with select days in residence at the History Museum on a monthly basis.

- V. Presentation of draft planning documents
 - a. Facility Master Plan – Michael Fiegenschuh, Mithun
 - b. Interpretive Master Plan – Jennifer Kilmer/MaryMikel Stump

Jennifer Kilmer noted that these two master plans are to be considered as visioning documents rather than blueprints. She thanked the Mithun team for their hard work and insightful process in developing the Facility Master Plan with staff input over the past several months, addressing the operational needs of WSHS into the foreseeable future.

It was mentioned that in the interpretative master plan, highlighting standout pieces in our collections could strengthen the museum's standing as a destination in its own right.

On behalf of the board, President Ryan Pennington thanked both Mithun and the WSHS staff for this important planning for the future of the Society.

- VI. Treasurer's Report – Alex McGregor
 - a. Financial Report [Exhibit 3]

The Society is on solid ground. Revenue is at 98% of budget and expenses are lower than budgeted to date. We have increased our reserves significantly, by nearly double. The first year of this biennium (2019-2021) we have budgeted to have a deficit, followed by a surplus in the second year.

- VII. Director's Performance Review – Ryan Pennington

The performance review of the Director was presented to the board for review and approval (Attachment A). It was approved unanimously (motion by John Hughes, seconded by Suzie Dicks). Ryan Pennington thanked Jennifer Kilmer for her good work on the Society's behalf.

- VIII. Governance Committee Report– Natalie Bowman

Board composition strategy will be approximately 1/3 government positions; 1/3 statewide and academic positions; 1/3 Tacoma area representation. By 2022, the board will have gender equity in representation. For board strength, the goal is to replace 3 to

4 board seats per year. After consideration, it was decided that age per se is not a key factor in insuring diversity, given the nature of our organization. Rather, recruitment will focus on experience and interest of potential trustees. (Committee Report, Attachment B)

IX. Director's Report – Jennifer Kilmer

- a. The Smithsonian travelling exhibit, Men of Change, will open on December 21. The Ford Foundation has a parallel initiative entitled "Men of Courage," where they will be providing \$25,000 for local programming. WSHS' opening event for the exhibit will be on MLK weekend, mid-January.
- b. WSHS wishes to support operational and capacity building for small heritage organizations and leaders. Therefore we are drafting proposed legislation to add "grantmaking" into our legislative authority (RCW).
- c. We are submitting supplemental budget requests in the upcoming legislative session:
 - i. Moving capital project staff costs into the operating budget.
 - ii. Migration of data to cloud servers (ongoing)
 - iii. Funding to cover the two-month gap in the 2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial budget (fiscal year ends June 30; Suffrage Centennial Celebration is in late August.)
 - iv. Minor works request for Capital Works budget.

X. Good of the Order

Jerry Price commented that the newly opened Ahead of the Curve exhibit is fantastic. Secretary of State Kim Wyman thanked WSHS for being a funding sponsor of the exhibit and presented WSHS with a Certificate of Appreciation. She also noted that all Legacy Washington exhibits are privately funded. This grant was provided through the Women's Suffrage Centennial.

President Ryan Pennington adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am (motion by Alex McGregor, seconded by Hans Zeiger).