

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

ENTITY: WSHS Board of Trustees  
 DATE: March 6, 2014  
 LOCATION: Coach House, Olympia, Washington State Capital Museum  
 TRUSTEES PRESENT: Larry Kopp, President; Sally Barline; Robert Carriker; Carol Coe (representing Randy Dorn); Jane Jacobson; Alex McGregor; Ken Raske (representing the Secretary of State Office); Richard Scheuerman; Jerry Whitfeld  
 STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Kilmer, Director; Len Balli, Museum Assistant; Stephanie Lile, Head of Education

12:00 Lunch: History Day presentation

1:00 Formal Meeting

- I. Call to Order by Larry Kopp, board president, and Introductions  
Meeting called to order at 12:59 PM
  
- II. Consent Items
  - a. Minutes, October 24, 2013 Meeting [Exhibit 1]  
Minutes adopted
  - b. Future Board Meeting Schedule [Exhibit 2]\*  
Next meeting adopted for September 24, 2014
  
- III. Policy, Planning & Governance
  - a. Governance Committee
    - i. Board Nominees 2014-2016 – request for recommendations  
Terms about to expire include Michael Allen, Charles Bingham and Gary Alexander.  
Names put forth for recommendation:
      - Representative J.T. Wilcox
      - Raymond Bauer -Executive at the Boeing Company as the Integration Leader in the Fabrication Division
      - Bill Hedges - Hedges Winery
      - R.L. McFarlin-Baker Boyer Bank
      - Charles Finkel-Pike Place Brewery/Ste. Michelle Winery
 Jennifer requested members send her names of individuals to recommend for placement on the board.
  - b. Finance Committee
    - i. Investment Report [Exhibit 3]  
Alex McGregor reported the finances of WSHS are in very good order. The report submitted by Laired Norton showed a \$64,000 gain on the \$1.25 million invested with them with moderate risk in the third quarter.

## ii. Financial Report [Exhibit 4]

Jennifer reported we are doing very well on contributed income goals. Grants and sponsorships are at very healthy levels. Gift shop sales will cover staffing but not make a profit, but was not budgeted to in its first year. Facility Rentals lost a large portion of rental income with the loss of the church rental, but pursuing other options. Station camp funds have been deposited into the account and are waiting to be allocated to a new project.

## a. Development Committee [Exhibit 5 ]

Richard Scheuerman reported a 70% retention rate in membership, compared to an industry standard of 60-65%. Have applied for five grants for capacity building efforts and received all five at full funding at over \$400,000 over three years. Major gifts has another tour of the Research Center scheduled.

Reassurances were given that follow up is given for all gifts and donations.

Formulating the means to get participation of all Board Members through a new Board Commitment Form. A computer program has been purchased to designate who would be a good candidate for planned giving.

## b. Collections Committee [Exhibit 6]

Robert Carriker reported the Historical Society is on track for accreditation renewal in 2017. Nancy Jackson's report indicates incredible progress in cataloging artifacts all but 39 out of 75,000 have been inventoried. We have made many requests at the state level for additional collections staff and for the pre-design phase of the Research Center expansion, none of which have been funded. The Research Center expansion will need 40,000 of additional storage space in order to house any future collections. We are at capacity for large item donations.

## c. Major Exhibits Committee

The Great Hall of Washington History's natural settings area is getting updated with the assistance of Bill Lane as curator. The first draft outlining interpretive content will be submitted in April 2014. The focus will be aimed at first peoples with less of a focus on geology.

## III. Operations/Performance/Trend Assessments

## a. Agency Activities and Performance Metrics [Exhibit 7 ]

Jennifer reported attendance is up 14% over last year. School tours are doing very well with the apex coming at the end of the school year. Third Thursday is a very successful program. The number reported in member ticket sales may be skewed low due to a staff input error, but it has since been corrected. The lobby reconfiguration has been well received and options were discussed at increasing the ability to add additional signage and lighting to increase the visibility of the History Museum.

## b. Legislative Update

An email was sent to Board Members regarding the possibility of moving the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation into the State Capital Museum and closing museum functions. Sixteen Board Members responded positively to the proposal. At this point the proposal is embraced by the state house, but the senate budget does not include monies for the move. Emergency funds have been requested to repair the plaza at the History Museum. Legislation has been submitted to amend our RCW, but the bill died in the Rules Committee. The

legislation has been inserted into the house version of the budget and will be revisited in the next session.

- c. Future exhibits overview and update including Arctic Ambitions and Gridiron Glory  
The Civil War pathways exhibit has been very successful. The Readers Theater program included over 200 readers. Programs have been very successful and we will be able to build on them. An introduction was given to Seymour History, the Historical Society's mascot. The new exhibit Ernest Oglby Punkweiler and the Fabulous Miraculous Time Intrusionater is the first exhibit aimed at the 10 and under crowd. World War I Posters, Pomp and Circumstances, Living in the Shadows, American Soldier, and Artic Ambitions are on slate.

Arctic Ambitions is a major exhibition we are doing with the Anchorage Museum on Captain Cook's travels in the Northwest and the Arctic. Retired Director David Nicandri is editing the companion book that goes with the exhibit. The exhibit is 7,000 square feet and features artifacts from the British Museum including Cook's journals and drawings.

#### IV. Spotlight on Education Department

Stephanie Lile provided an overview of her department to the Board.

\*Denotes Action Item