

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

ENTITY: WSHS Board of Trustees  
 DATE: June 18, 2011  
 LOCATION: Peter Simpson Board Room, Washington State History Museum, Tacoma  
 TRUSTEES PRESENT: Daniel Grimm, Chairman; Michael Allen; Charles Bingham; Robert Carriker; Melanie Dressel; John Hughes; Representative Sam Hunt; Senator Derek Kilmer; Larry Kopp; Corky Mattingly; Alex McGregor; George Moynihan; Richard Scheuerman; Victoria Woodards  
 STAFF PRESENT: David Nicandri, Director; Laura Berry, Development Director; Christopher Lee, Chief Financial Officer; Misty Dawn Reese, Chief Administrative Officer  
 GUEST: Robert Bayersdorfer  
 PREPARED BY: Misty Dawn Reese

I. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Consent Items

a. Minutes, March 3, 2011 Meeting [Exhibit 1]\*

The minutes of the March 3, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted.

b. Future Board Meeting Schedule [Exhibit 2]\*

The meeting schedule was approved as submitted.

III. Policy, Planning & Governance

David Nicandri submitted his letter of retirement effective October 7, 2011. He expressed gratitude to trustees, staff, and volunteers both current and past for their support and commitment to the Society during his twenty-five year tenure as Executive Director. Several trustees expressed appreciation for David's leadership and management skills.

a. Governance Committee

Chairman Grimm announced an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The session was called to order at 9:18 a.m. The session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:14 a.m.

b. Executive Committee

2011-2013 Operating Budget [Exhibit 3]

Mr. Nicandri presented the Society's budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, including staffing levels and initial budgets for specific programs and Museum operations. He emphasized that the budget imposes a 19% reduction in state funding from the preceding biennium and a cumulative reduction of 34% over the past four years. He noted, however, that it is far better than the budget initially proposed by the Governor, which

would have eliminated all state operating support. He expressed gratitude to Senator Derek Kilmer, Representative Sam Hunt and other legislators, such as Representative Jeannie Darnielle, for their staunch support under difficult circumstances.

Chairman Grimm expressed gratitude to Mr. Nicandri for his ability to persuade the Governor to allocate Museum maintenance funds to the Society instead of the Department of General Administration as originally proposed.

Mr. Grimm reminded trustees that the board had delegated to the Executive Committee at its March meeting the authority to approve the budget because of the delayed passage of the state budget. The Executive Committee approved the budget at a meeting April 16, 2011.

IV. Operations/Performance/Trend Assessments

a. Private Sector Fundraising Capacity-Building

Mr. Nicandri introduced Development Director Laura Berry. Ms. Berry explained the continuing effort to secure a grant from the Murdock Trust that would be dedicated to improving the Society's development program.

Ms. Berry introduced Robert Bayersdorfer, who has offered to help the Society devise a fund-raising campaign. He discussed potential elements of such a campaign.

b. Gift Acceptance Policies and Guidelines [Exhibit 4]

Mr. Nicandri explained the intent of a proposed policy and related guidelines governing the acceptance of gifts made to the Society. Chairman Grimm recommended approval as submitted with the understanding that the policy would be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's Office. The policy was unanimously approved by the board.

c. Mr. Nicandri and Chief Financial Officer Christopher Lee submitted for board consideration a resolution authorizing the purchase of certificates of deposit offered by Columbia Bank of Tacoma. Columbia Bank offered the highest rate of interest in a competitive bid process conducted by Mr. Lee.

Following Melanie Dressel's recusal from the discussion and vote, the board unanimously approved the resolution.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.