

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DRAFT MINUTES

ENTITY: WSHS Board of Trustees
DATE: Thursday, December 6, 2018
LOCATION: Washington State History Museum
TRUSTEES PRESENT: Ryan Pennington, President, Sheryl Stiefel, VP West, Krist Novoselic, VP East, Natalie Bowman, Enrique Cerna (by telephone), Senator Jeannie Darneille, RaShelle Davis (representing Governor Jay Inslee), Suzie Dicks, John Hughes, John Larson, Jerry Price (representing Superintendent Chris Reykdal), Beth Willis, Senator Hans Zeiger
STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Kilmer, Director; Susan Hesselgrave, Executive Assistant to the Director; Mary Mikel Stump, Director of Audience Engagement
PRESENTERS: Bill Smith, Storyline

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
Called to order at 9:05 AM, President Ryan Pennington presiding.
- II. Consent Items
 - a. Minutes September 22, 2018 Meeting [Exhibit 1]
 - b. Future Board Meeting Schedule [Exhibit 2]
Suzie Dicks moved to approve Exhibits 1-2 as presented. John Hughes seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- III. Great Hall Update Presentation – Bill Smith, *Storyline*
Bill Smith gave an overview of the initial planning in the process of developing the next phase of the Great Hall. “A key question is ‘What can you do here (at the museum) that you can’t do by sitting at home and watching the History Channel?’”

Responding to a question regarding tribal input on changes and developments in the Great Hall, Director Jennifer Kilmer concurred that the agency needs to develop more robust relationships with the tribes, and that WSHS has submitted a budget request to fund a tribal liaison position (a position WSHS used to have, prior to the budget cuts of a decade ago which resulted in its elimination).
- IV. Governance Committee – Sheryl Stiefel
A motion was made by Beth Willis to adopt the updated bylaws [Exhibit 4], first presented to the board at the September 22 meeting. John Hughes seconded the motion. There were no comments, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Beth Willis moved to approve new trustee candidate Mark Wales [Exhibit 5] to the WSHS board. Sen. Jeannie Darneille seconded the motion. There were no comments, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chair Sheryl Stiefel noted that she would be reaching out to trustees after the meeting, as there was a need to develop new prospects for the WSHS board.

- V. Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Kilmer (for Alex McGregor)
Provided Financial Report, Year-to-Date [Exhibit 3].
- VI. Capital Projects Update – Jennifer Kilmer
Progress is good on minor works. The next project is upgrading security systems in both buildings. This will include a camera system at the Research Center and auditable swipe card access to storage spaces there, fulfilling a higher standard of care for WSHS collections. WSHS has received \$450,000 in emergency funds to fix the plaza pavers, with thanks for the influence of RaShelle Davis of the Governor's Office in obtaining that funding.
- VII. Re-accreditation Update – Jennifer Kilmer [Exhibit 6]
John Hughes offered congratulations on achieving the significant milestone of AMA re-accreditation. Jennifer Kilmer thanked the trustees for their active cooperation and involvement with the process.

One of the findings of the re-accreditation report is that WSHS staff has been stretched beyond *sustainable* efforts for several years now, and that additional staff resources are needed. Kilmer noted that we have submitted staffing requests in the upcoming budget decision packages in the areas of HR, security, tribal liaison, and education (to develop curriculum that meets current pedagogical standards).

- VIII. Good of the Order
Sen. Jeannie Darneille thanked John Hughes, to a round of applause, for his always cordial and constructive presence and contributions on the board.

Jennifer Kilmer noted that WSHS has applied for an IMLS grant, in a new service area for WSHS – to study and develop guidance and resources for cultural institutions, to cover multiple points: statewide inventory of heritage assets; assessing level of emergency preparedness; creating CERNs (Cultural Emergency Response Networks). WSHS would become the repository for emergency response plans, and would activate the network (CERN) in the event of an emergency. 2019-2020 would be the execution timeline for this grant, should it be funded.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.