

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

ENTITY: WSHS Board of Trustees
DATE: Thursday, June 15, 2017
LOCATION: Washington State History Museum
TRUSTEES PRESENT: Larry Kopp, President, Robert Carriker, Vice President-East, Alex McGregor, Treasurer, Sally Barline, Carol Coe (representing Chris Reykdal), Sen. Jeannie Darneille, John Dimmer, John Hughes, Sen. Sam Hunt, Sheryl Stiefel, Rep. J.T. Wilcox, Beth Willis
STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Kilmer, Director; Susan Hesselgrave, Executive Assistant to the Director; Lynette Miller, Head of Collections
GUESTS PRESENT: Suzie Dicks, Jim Garrison

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Called to order at 9:00 AM, President Larry Kopp presiding. The meeting commenced with a tour of the work in progress in the Great Hall.

The agenda was modified to move approval of the 2017 Slate of Trustees as the first item for consideration. Sam Hunt moved to approve the 2017 Slate of Trustees. John Hughes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Trustees elected: Enrique Cerna, Suzanne (Suzie) Dicks, James (Jim) Garrison, Claudia Kauffman, Ryan Pennington, Rep. J.T. Wilcox. Officers elected: Robert Carricker, VP East. (See Attachment A, Election Resolution)

Trustee introductions were made, including the two newly elected trustees in attendance, Suzie Dicks and Jim Garrison, whose terms begin July 1, 2017.

II. Presentation of New Collections – Lynette Miller

WSHS Head of Collections Lynette Miller presented several items added to the collection in the past year including the ship's journal from the Albatross, arrived at the Columbia River, 1810. (See Attachment B, Selected Recent Acquisitions)

III. Consent Items

a. Minutes March 9, 2017 Meeting [Exhibit 1]

Sen. Sam Hunt requested correction of the spelling of Sen. Fraser's name in the draft minutes. Larry Kopp moved to approve Exhibit 1 as amended. John Hughes seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- b. Future Board Meeting Schedule [Exhibit 2]
- c. Finance Report [Exhibit 3]
- d. Performance Dashboard [Exhibit 4]

Jennifer Kilmer presented a summary of key metrics.

- Since the opening of Gridiron Glory, there has been a 15% increase in attendance and a 67% increase in gift store sales.

Larry Kopp moved to approve Exhibits 2-4 as presented. Sen. Sam Hunt seconded. The motion was approved.

IV. Director's Performance Review

Staff left the room during the board discussion of this agenda item.

V. Legislative Session Update

Jennifer Kilmer presented a summary of legislative activity pertaining to WSHS. Notably, the agency request legislation, to modify the wording of the RCW, was passed. The House budget funds \$1.3M for the Heritage Capital Projects grant program, out of the \$8.9M in funds requested. The Senate proposes \$5M. The Senate budget funds \$4.34M for Minor Works-Preservation at WSHS while the House budget funds \$2M for minor works. The operating budget in both houses represents maintenance level funding for the Society. This is an improvement over prior year budgets when we have faced operating reductions. Discussion covered impacts of potential closure due to lack of a state budget on July 1.

VI. Historic Lord Mansion Update

Renovations are now complete. A leasing agent is showing the property. The marketing video was played, displaying all of the renovations.

VII. Strategic Planning Presentation – Jennifer Kilmer
(Handout: See attachment C.)

Discussion covered multiple topics:

- a. Future status of Columbia magazine. Editor Christina Dubois will be retiring around the end of the year. There are no plans to get rid of the magazine. Planning for future issues was referred to an ad hoc committee.
- b. One potential partnership is with UWT and their graduate department, exploring possibilities regarding curated online galleries, documenting exhibits.
- c. Carol Coe mentioned partnering with OSPI using the Open Educational Resources (OER) platform (example: virtual "textbook" resource developed by League of Women Voters). Districts are saving a ton of money by using these online distributed resources.
- d. Jennifer Kilmer noted that, through connections made by Alex McGregor, WSHS is in a partnership with History Link on a project documenting agriculture in the state.
- e. Jim Garrison asked what the Board will see next in the strategic planning process. Kilmer noted it will be the proposed performance measurements and budget allocation. There

are needs for staffing that need to be evaluated, in the areas of graphic design, IT, event coordination, and exhibit curation capacity.

- f. Rep. J.T. Wilcox noted there is increased interest in regional locales to establish an identity of their own (as distinct from Seattle). Kilmer noted that we are exploring small grant programming across the state as well as a way to connect the collections that exist across the state in these small places.
 - g. Beth Willis suggested putting Chuck Fowler on the list as a resource.
- VIII. Good of the Order
No items were brought forward.
- IX. President Larry Kopp adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.