

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

ENTITY: WSHS Board of Trustees
DATE: Thursday, March 9, 2017
LOCATION: Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor
TRUSTEES PRESENT: Robert Carriker, Vice President-East, Richard Scheuerman, Vice President-West, Alex McGregor, Treasurer, Sally Barline, John Dimmer, Carol Coe (representing Chris Reykdal), John Hughes, Sen. Sam Hunt, Ryan Pennington, Beth Willis
STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Kilmer, Director; Susan Hesselgrave, Executive Assistant to the Director
PRESENTER: William Smith, Storyline Studio

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Called to order at 1:05 pm, Vice President-East Robert Carriker presiding.

John Hughes shared a remembrance in honor of Melanie Dressel, retired WSHS Trustee and former board president, who recently passed away. "The warmth that she projected and the contribution she brought to our community will not be forgotten."

The board agreed to switch the order of presentation of agenda items, in order to move the presentation by Bill Smith, of Storyline Studio, to the top of the agenda.

II. Presentation of Great Hall exhibit plans

Bill Smith, of Storyline Studio, presented the exhibit design and a detailed explanation of various design elements.

III. Consent Items

a. Minutes December 15, 2016 Meeting [Exhibit 1]

Alex McGregor moved to approve Exhibit 1 as presented. Sen. Sam Hunt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

b. Future Board Meeting Schedule [Exhibit 2]

Alex McGregor moved to approve Exhibit 2 as presented. Sen. Sam Hunt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

c. Committee Updates [Exhibits 3-6]

- i. Committee Chair Robert Carriker highlighted two significant recent donations to the collections.

- ii. Development Chair Richard Scheuerman emphasized the symbolic importance of trustee donations, stating that the first question from a potential major donor or foundation was always “Does everyone on your board contribute to the organization?”

There has been a steady, constant outreach effort in planned giving, which will continue to bear fruit down the road.

- iii. Finance Chair Alex McGregor highlighted that public support revenue has improved and expenses have been reduced.

Director Jennifer Kilmer addressed a question that had been raised regarding what the WSHS bylaws required, clarifying that the bylaws did not contain any requirements for a balanced budget or positive cash flow. There has been an unwritten guideline to stay within 3% of the biennial budget, which has always been met.

- iv. Ryan Pennington reported that the Governance Committee is working on increasing membership on the Board, with two emphases: (1) members having connections that will help WSHS fundraising capacity; (2) increasing the diversity of attributes represented on the board.
- v. Performance Dashboard [Exhibit 7]

Jennifer Kilmer presented a summary of key metrics.

- Raising the museum admission rates is under consideration. WSHM admission is the cheapest in the museum district, and even with an increase, will remain so. Possible timing will be this spring.
- We are dispensing more discounts on licensing fees.
- There is a decrease in school tours. One factor was a school bus drivers contract dispute which prevented schools from booking transportation for field trips.
- We are still awaiting a go-ahead from OFM regarding the remainder of Station Camp funds.

Alex McGregor moved to approve Exhibits 3-7 as presented. John Hughes seconded. The motion was approved.

IV. Legislative update

Jennifer Kilmer reported this session’s efforts were going very well, with over 20 legislative meetings conducted. She has reached out to some new members of the legislature. Testimony is upcoming on approving the RCW modification taking out the language

referring to the “State Capitol Museum,” substituting “Historic Lord Mansion.”

Due to significant pressure on the capital budget because of increased school construction, we are anticipating a decrease in funding of the Heritage Capital Project (we requested \$9million). Also, we have concerns regarding the capital budget as we have funding requests pending (notably, to upgrade our security systems).

We are advocating for a budget provision for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Governor’s Budget did not include it, but several legislators have said they would carry our request forward.

Sen. Fraser has advocated successfully for funding at the state level to commemorate the 2020 celebration of women’s suffrage. HB 2007 has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Robert Carriker inquired as to whether the 6.5% state salary increase would be happening (and its implications for WSHS budgeting). Kilmer clarified that no budgets have yet been released yet, so it is unknown.

V. Historic Lord Mansion Update
Renovations are now complete.

VI. Exhibit Schedule – Fundraising Discussion [Exhibit 8]
The board discussed ideas about sponsorship for upcoming exhibits.

VII. Board Development Discussion
The Governance Committee will continue their outreach efforts for new trustees, and board members are encouraged to put forward names to the committee. For reference, the trustee election schedule will be sent to all members of the board.

VIII. Good of the Order
Sally Barline noted that the June Board of Trustees meeting will coincide with the Festival of Tall Ships. Jennifer Kilmer will inquire about arranging a special tour, if possible.

John Hughes noted that the current issue of Columbia Magazine includes an article co-authored by Robert Carriker.

Alex McGregor moved to adjourn. John Hughes seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.