

Whitman County Historical Society Board @ WCHS Archives

June 21, 2023

Board members present: Mark Clinton, Pat Flansburg, Linda Hackbarth, Krista Boyd, Greg Partch, Donna Potts, Jeff Pietila, Janet Barstow.

Guest: Alex Otero

Consent agenda was approved.

Greg Partch reported on the Stateline Project (Palouse Center of Agricultural History and Innovation). Copies of the feasibility study conducted by DesignWest were shared with the board. The financial aspect of the study is forthcoming. Currently 7 board members have been secured, with the goal of 9-11 members. The group may be setting up a booth at the fair. \$100,000 in start-up funds is being sought.

The train committee will assemble a proposal for WCHS board, seeking permission to apply for a grant for rail car repairs from the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association.

Jeff Pietila moved, Donna Potts seconded to approve the proposal from DesignWest for exterior windows, doors and soffits as part of Stage 2 renovations for the Depot. Approved.

Dave Benscoter has turned his role as lead for the Lost Apple Committee over to Rebecca McGee.

A house owned by Steve and Karen Swoope, on the northwest side of the Perkins House is for sale. They have expressed interest in working with WCHS to purchase it for various possible uses. Janet Barstow expressed concern about the Society's ability to secure funding for Val Gregory's salary. Greg Partch will meet with the Swoopes for more information prior to the next board meeting.

Gary Libey sent thanks to WCHS for its help with the Sheriff Parnell memorial ceremony.

Attendance was down for the Ice Cream Social. Several members of the Perkins family were in attendance and took note of upcoming necessary repairs.

Jim Fitzgerald and Nancy Rothwell were honored as Volunteers of the Year. Beginning this year, recipients will also receive a small plaque for themselves to keep.

Greg Partch reported that the WCHS will not be needed as a fiscal sponsor for the Oakesdale Flour Mill Project. \$110,000 has been raised so far towards the \$150,000 needed for a down payment. Asking price is \$217,000.

Donna Potts received enthusiastic support from WSU Press regarding a book she is working on "Women of the Palouse". The goal is completion by January 2024.

Alex Otero reported that WSU MASC is closed except by appointment July 1 – August 15. He also reported that the collection of Palouse Magazine has been digitized and is searchable. Currently it is very

slow but he has ideas to improve that. Dunn and Bradstreet business directories have also been digitized.

The next meeting will be July 19 at the Perkins House.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Barstow, Secretary