

Whitman County Historical Society Board Meeting

Jan. 18, 2023 at Archives

Board members present: Carol Larsen, Jeff Pietila, Janet Barstow, Mark Clinton, Val Gregory, Pat Flansburg, Linda Hackbarth, Donna Potts, Greg Partch, Denise Mahnkey, Kathy Meyer. Attending via phone: Krista Boyd and Jon Anderson.

Guests: Alex Otero, Ed Garretson, John-Mark Mahnkey

Ed Garretson addressed the board concerning the importance of funding the executive director position. Combined with supporting the general fund, he recommends: a campaign to increase the endowment fund; increase paid memberships; seek more corporate sponsors; and assess administrative fees for grants and large donations. Much discussion ensued.

Mark Clinton reported on the executive committee's recommendations which also included assessing administrative fees, charging fees for genealogical research at the Archives and a tiered donation/sponsorship plan to recognize donors. Greg Partch was given approval for he and Ed Garretson to develop details and contact potential supporters. It was noted that many perceive the historical society as being financially supported by the county, which is not the case.

Kathy Meyer expressed firm opposition to advertising in the newsletter.

Linda Hackbarth inquired where the interest gained from Depot donations goes. Jon Anderson explained it goes to the general fund, but it is a very small amount.

Val Gregory reminded Greg and Ed to check with her before seeking donations, to make sure that entity hadn't already donated significantly to another area of the Society.

Mark Clinton reminded of the need, as established at the board retreat, of committees for finances, funding development, membership, governance (by-laws) and public relations. Much discussion ensued. Donna Potts volunteered to be on the membership committee. Janet Barstow will assist. To be continued at the next meeting.

Consent agenda was approved.

Wilson Siding Project: It is hoped to begin a feasibility study by end of the month. This will be done by Ned at Design West Architects. Thanks to Innovia Foundation and Gesa Credit Union for facilitating the financing. Dave Hoyt, Greg Partch, Jeff Pietila and Alex McGregor have been meeting and will be seeking to establish a board of directors for the project. Latah County Historical Society also wants to be a partner.

Alex Otero is getting a proposal and bid for upgrading the computers, printers and connections in the Archive.

The next meeting will be Feb. 15 at the Depot. The executive board and steering committee will meet at 6 p.m. following by the regular board meeting at 7. A trustee from the endowment fund will be invited to present the annual report.

Janet Barstow, Secretary