

Whitman County Historical Society Board Meeting
8-19-2026; 7:00pm; Pullman Depot Heritage Center; Pullman, WA

Board members present: Jeff Pietila, Mark Clinton, Jon Anderson, Denise Mahnkey, Linda Hackbarth, Krista Boyd, Carol Larsen, Wendy Blake, Val Gregory

Guests Present: John-Mark Mahnkey, Debbie Sherman

Linda Hackbarth requested some clarification and explanation of the financial statements, which were provided by Jon Anderson. No corrections were requested to the figures presented, though the Board may want to review financial policies for the various locations at a later date. Denise Mahnkey moved, Linda Hackbarth seconded, and the board approved the consent agenda as submitted.

Jon Anderson reported that the Innovia legal team is working to review the current trust agreement to see what all must be done to transfer the trust from Edward Jones to Innovia should the board decide to give authorization to do so.

Krista Boyd reported that preparations for the Jones Schoolhouse programming and docents at this year's Palouse Empire Fair are mostly going OK. As usual, more volunteers would be very welcome, since there are still many open slots in the schedule. The openings have filled quickly for area third grade classes to experience a sample set of lessons typical of one room schoolhouses. SEL is scheduled to provide their popular electricity demonstration in the Schoolhouse.

John-Mark Mahnkey reported that the August 18th meeting with Allied Rail Corporation has been delayed. The people who were going to be traveling here to give a consultation and estimate for the rolling stock restoration efforts have met with multiple traffic accidents while traveling for current jobs back east—one resulting only in damage to their equipment, and another requiring one of the people who were going to meet with us to stay multiple days in a hospital under observation for possible concussion. The meeting will be rescheduled once the parties involved are once again available.

Val Gregory reported that she is working with Ed Garretson to draft a mailing encouraging our membership and other likely donors to contribute to our endowment fund. The goal is to significantly increase the endowment fund so that the interest earned meets our ongoing operating expenses. The mailing is expected to go out around Thanksgiving.

The original tentative plans formed at the beginning of the year for the Annual Meeting have proved impractical. Val suggested that The Center at the Colfax branch of the Whitman County Library would still be a good meeting venue. Many members noted that there has been good progress in preserving the Oakesdale Mill, now owned by the Port of Whitman. Jeff will contact them and see if they would like to give a presentation at our Annual Meeting.

Our preferred date is October 11th, but that may yet change depending on the availability of presenters. One likely nominee for Volunteer of the year was identified. Other nominations are still very welcome and should be sent to Val.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Blake, Secretary

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, September 16 – Palouse; *Tour the Trinity Chapel at 6pm; regular meeting, Print Museum at 7pm

October or November – Annual meeting TBD

Wednesday, November 18 – Depot; *Exec meeting at 6pm; regular meeting at 7pm