

ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 10th, 2021
Meeting by Zoom and phone

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Davis, Charlie Hamilton, Gary Wirt, Rocky Shay, Bob Lawrence, Warren Yee, Jeremy Bowen, Samantha Dana, , Jim McIntosh, Luis Moscoso, Patrick Carnahan (due later), Dave Roe (representing Bob Krebs)

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Mike Morrison, Marian Rhys, Dave Jannuzzi, Harvey Bowen

President Kathy Davis called the meeting and the Board to order at 1:07 p.m. Secretary Rocky Shay identified a Board quorum of nine, with Board Member Patrick Carnahan due to arrive later.

OFFICER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: President Davis had no report.

VICE PRESIDENT: Vice President Gary Wirt said we'd be presenting to the Washington State Transportation Commission on Eastern Washington service and would request a cost-benefit analysis. He asked Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Muscoso for a meeting to prepare. Tomorrow at noon was agreed on.

TREASURER: Mr. Hamilton gave the report in Treasurer Hendrik De Kock's absence. He expressed appreciation for pledges and urged us to seek more financial support for the organization and projects like the Train Treks coming up in August. He showed a list of Train Trek stops and a planning discussion followed. He said the cost would be \$7,000. Mr. Hamilton also discussed our participation in Rail Across the Region and in Montana efforts. He showed a list and mentioned refocusing our fundraising efforts on crowdfunding, something young people are more interested in. He also listed expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND GOALS:

MEMBERSHIP: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence discussed efforts to get expired members back. Mr. Hamilton sought helpers on the project. He added that we have sent out our 2020 contribution notices. Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Hamilton gave more details of their efforts and a technical discussion of problems with emails followed. Mr. Hamilton praised Mr. Lawrence's efforts to communicate with members.

COALITIONS: Mr. Hamilton updated us on the Northwest Division Webinar. He mentioned All Aboard Washington Board Member Pete Lewis's resignation due to illness. He also discussed the Great Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group and Transport Action.

EVENT PLANNING: Mr. Hamilton said this year's All Aboard Washington picnic planning was complete. He also discussed Train Trek planning. Mr. Morrison talked about Canadian group participation. Harvey Bowen said there was no word on Canada or the Blaine station stop.

CONTRACTOR REPORTS:

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: Government Affairs Director Louis Moscoso said the June WSDOT meeting had been canceled. He suggested that we send possible questions for July, adding that our frayed relations with the DOT have improved. He mentioned working with the Legislative Rail Caucus and setting up meetings with the state House and Senate Transportation committees. Mr. Moscoso mentioned a draft proposal for helping the state Transportation Commission catch up on rail issues. He discussed work with the Washington Public Ports Association over their passenger train congestion concerns. He noted a July Kiwanis Club presentation with former AAWA Board Member Mark Foutch based on Mr. Carnahan's excellent paper on reviving rail. He reviewed AORTA's efforts in Oregon. A question-and-answer session followed. Mr. Moscoso then said the state Transportation Commission likes our work in promoting passenger rail.

Mr. Hamilton called for a brief break and President Davis declared it at 2 p.m. She reconvened the meeting at 2:05.

CHCS: Mr. Hamilton said much in his report had already been covered. He said the focus now is on fundraising and work on getting larger donors. He showed donor progress for Train treks and said he would discuss grant possibilities with Ms. Dana. He showed the AAWA Support Services Report and mentioned the "Three Es, Environmental, Economic and Equity benefits. He discussed the recent Webinar on RPA's Web site and what we and AORTA did there. He also discussed picnic plans. He said more hybrid events are planned. He added that the number of AAWA committees has been cut and the inactive ones stopped. Also, the Whistle Stop has been put on hold by the Rail Caucus and we won't be doing the Washington State Fair. He said our late newsletter is now out and work is proceeding on the newsletter for next quarter. He said we are still doing coalitions with Disability Rights Washington and others. Mr. Carnahan joined the meeting at this point.

OLD BUSINESS: President Davis said most old business was already discussed except for our Internet connection. Mr. Morrison said the AORTA office is mostly out of service as Dan McFarling recovers from an injury. Ms. Rhys added detail and told President Davis about a Columbia River Bridge alternative concepts video. Mr. McIntosh called for more regional rail suggestions. Mr. Morrison said he was rejected for a bridge project committee due to his AORTA affiliation and said current the idea is to simply revive the rejected highway-only proposal. Further discussion followed, including on work with Oregon and Washington Legislative committees on the bridge project. Mr. Moscoso mentioned that at least three new Cascades trainsets should be here in four years.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Davis said the Coast Starlight had already been discussed. Mr. Carnahan said we should work with the Urbanist and others.

Mr. Hamilton again noted the August 21st picnic in Cle Elum but said some would need to be at the RPA meeting in DC. He noted that the RPA Council needs another Washington state representative.

President Davis adjourned the Board and the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary

