

# VMIHA Board Meeting

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## VMIHA Board Meeting Minutes 07 June 2022

Attending: Sharon Briskman, Mike Sudduth, Cyrus Anderson, Glenn Gray, Sue Hardy, Karen Bray, Beth de Groen, Laurie Tucker, Tom Langland, Chris Anderson, Kim Kambek, Bruce Haulman, Alexandra Seaman

Staff: Elsa Croonquist, Executive Director; Peter Woodbrook, Communications Manager; Siobhan McComb, Development & Events Manager

Guests: Keith Prior

The Officers of the Board are as follows:

- Bruce Haulman, President
- Sue Hardy, Vice President
- Cyrus Anderson, Treasurer
- Alexandra Seaman, Secretary

**MOTION: It was moved, seconded and PASSED without objection that the board approve the minutes of the May meeting**

The development committee gave an update on the upcoming Bid and Buy fundraising event, which is coming together well. Board members are asked to promote the auction at this time, whether by calling people, emailing them, or telling them when you see them in person. Please be sure to tell them about the bidding page, accessible through the front page of the museum's website. Be sure to take a look at the offerings as well. The Saturday kickoff will begin at 2 pm, and will have an open house feel, with hors d'oeuvres as well as music from 3:30 to 4:30. Billboards are going up around town and there will be a social media push before the big day. A Sign-Up Genius email with an auction guide was sent out today, providing the option to sign-up for shifts other than those on Saturday, which could take pressure off docents regarding auction duties.

There was a question about the cut the auction website host takes from transactions. Doing a manual run of a credit card at the museum will alleviate the 32 auction fee, though the standard fee from using Square will remain. Writing a check directly to the museum means all monies will go straight to the museum.

The Finance Committee shared that the museum has had greater expenses this spring, due to taking on more people and programming, which has led to a current deficit of \$35,000. This was not unexpected and should be directly offset by the money that comes in from the auction. Overall, it is a good illustration of why it has been important to have reserves, and why the museum needs to work hard to make its fundraisers successful.

The Special Exhibits Committee reported that in conjunction with Natural Wonder the museum will participate in a Bio Blitz this July, which will cover the area from downtown Vashon over to Fisher Pond. The exhibit will be up until next year, with the option for further programming along the way.

The Mini Exhibits team told the board that it has taken down the Vashon Potters exhibit, which had a great turnout and generated much enthusiasm from those who created it and those who attended. The auction display is now up, and several others are planned for over the course of the summer. There is the potential that Gib Dammann could help curate a mini exhibit featuring his political memorabilia later this year.

The Permanent Exhibit Committee focused this past month on cementing where the docent desk will go, having Taylor Felt be in contact with Collections to make sure items planned for incorporation in the exhibit have not been deaccessioned, and the progression of the labels, which includes interpretive panels along with object information. The Historian Advisory Group met this past weekend, and was given a presentation by Taylor similar to that which was given to the board previously and focusing on the exhibit brief. Much of the feedback from that first meeting focused on how the material will be presented.

A report on docent activity uncovered good foot traffic lately, with people who came in for the pottery exhibit staying to take in the entire museum. There also happened to be a few international visitors this month, interested specifically in Betty MacDonald's work, illustrating the author's continued popularity in Eastern Europe.

The Planning Committee commended the Campus Subcommittee for its efforts to meet with working groups in order to assess their needs. Each working group will begin giving updates to the board on their assessment of the ten-year plan, through to the retreat in the fall. This will allow the plan to be a living document, which can continue to be recalibrated.

The museum is now working on a sign project with the Puyallup tribe. It will encompass yard signs and permanent metal signs to serve as a land acknowledgement. This is part of an effort to expand the relationship with the tribe. Tom Dean is part of the group undertaking this and has secured a grant to pay for the signs. A tribal artist has provided the museum with several potential designs from which to choose. The yard signs are going to be free to the community, and the metal signs will be placed in businesses, trailheads, and other public locations. There is the potential that in future, some of the designs not chosen for this project may be made into designs that are available for purchase.

The opening of the time capsule remains in limbo as the Washington State Historical Society lab, where it is currently located, is still closed due to Covid-19. As far as the school element to the endeavor, a questionnaire has been completed by the students of Chautauqua, bulletin board projects have been donated by McMurray, while the high school has not established any concrete plans for material yet.

Executive Director Elsa Croonquist reports that as we move into summer, there is expected to be an uptick in numbers, especially as the island continues to be promoted as a destination. The auction and then the ice cream social at the Strawberry Festival, will take up much of the focus in the coming months. Accompanying the festival period there will be a talk on soapbox derbies, with a small mini exhibit on the cars to go along with it. The Virginia V is scheduled for its August cruise, with a mini exhibit being put on at the same time to highlight its centennial. This is making slow but sure progress as the committee attempts to get information from the Virginia V foundation. Two cruises are planned for

the day, with a shorter, family-oriented one to visit the area around Blake Island, and a longer one that will circumvent the island.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexandra Seaman, Secretary