

# ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

## Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

By Zoom and phone (minutes done with meeting recording)

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Davis, Charlie Hamilton, Gary Wirt, Hendrik De Kock, Bob Lawrence, Warren Yee, Jim McIntosh

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Dave Jannuzzi

President Kathy Davis called the meeting and the AAWA Board to order at 1:04 p.m. with a Board quorum of six.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice-President Gary Wirt mentioned the last of the four long-distance study meetings coming up on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Also there will be a discussion of a service development plan for the North Coast Hiawatha. Mr. Wirt also said he was not up to speed regarding ODOT. He said AAWA's Breck Lebegue was wondering about the Big Sky rail meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Hendrik De Kock called for a Board vote on a request for money for food and beverages at the upcoming auction at the River's Edge restaurant. He explained the arrangements to Mr. Wirt. Mr. Hamilton guessed that about 15 were registered. Mr. De Kock then moved for up to \$700.00. Mr. Yee seconded. All Board members present voted by voice to approve the motion. Mr. De Kock then mentioned a possible need for a new AAWA post office box, but said he couldn't get into our account at the Magnolia Post Office, which still is under the late Hans Mueller's name. Mr. Wirt was told by Mr. De Kock that this would involve address and business card changes. Mr. Hamilton said he would look into the issue. More discussion followed. Mr. De Kock also mentioned that Recurring Donations had stopped processing for a while in the middle of last year. The problem was found, but over three days, several transactions were processed at once instead of over time and we had to refund those accounts, and our Recovering Transaction members now need to reset their accounts. Mr. Jannuzzi said all involved had been informed. Mr. De Kock then recounted AAWA's financial situation, calling it "pretty consistent." He said another matching fundraiser was coming soon. Mr. Hamilton said the last one was successful.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: With Secretary Rocky Shay absent, a decision was made to vote on the March meeting minutes on the Internet. Mr. Hamilton said no minutes were required for the April meeting because there was no Board business.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence reviewed the latest report, counting a total of 218 members, up eight, but with 124 primary members now lapsed. He said email reminders continue. He also said he recently mailed paper newsletters to non-email members.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT: With Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso not present, Mr. Hamilton reviewed the April Capitol Hill Library meeting featuring J. Craig Thorpe. He also noted a number of younger, new people there. He added that Mr. Thorpe is willing to do a presentation in Spokane in October. Mr. Hamilton praised the April meeting overall. Ms. Davis said Mr. Thorpe was pleased and that some of his artwork would be at our auction. Mr. Hamilton then discussed five alternate plans for Amtrak Cascades improvements. He said we were told that these couldn't extend to other corridors, but that we are officially supporting the most ambitious plan for 16 round trips between Seattle and Portland. He added that we're being criticized by some of our fellow organizations for not asking that the Nisqually Curve improvement be included, but we feel that increased frequencies are more important. Mr. Lawrence also said Blaine was important. Mr. Hamilton noted that Canadians submitted similar comments. More discussion followed, then Mr. Hamilton said more comment opportunities would be coming.

SPOKANE MEETING: Mr. Hamilton reminded all that the third annual Northwest Rail Summit in Spokane is coming up in October over two days at the Spokane Central Library near Havermale Island (which once hosted the Great Northern passenger station). He said that to save money, AAWA members will make their own reservations but the Spokane Mayor's Office may comp our menu. He showed a list of planned events and reviewed a possible guest list. He said lawmakers are asking us about state budget needs and showed the FRA's list of 15 long-distance routes up for possible restoration. Mr. Wirt mentioned some alternatives and said we must make more contact with our members of Congress. A discussion about how many of these routes were lost and the fact that restorations would involve only one train a day, despite rumors of two, followed; also a discussion of the relative inexpensiveness of restarting these routes in the federal government will take care of infrastructure costs. Mr. Hamilton then said he would be asking our Board to put up some money to help pay for the Summit.

CLIMATE COMMITMENT INITIATIVE: Mr. Hamilton encouraged our Board to sign on to the effort to kill the initiative to kill the Climate Commitment Act, with a possible Board vote by email.

AUCTION REPORT: Mr. Hamilton showed a picture of Lloyd Flem items up for bid at the auction set for Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged all to attend.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Mr. Hamilton urged rescheduling of the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and cancellation of July. He also encouraged attendance at the August picnic. He then showed the meeting list for the rest of the year.

President Kathy Davis adjourned the meeting and the Board with a motion, second and yes vote, at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary

