

## Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Minutes of December 19, 2023

**PRESENT:** Lisa Bernhardt, Erin Borden, Heather McCoy, Jen Schmitz, Jeff Sturm, John Whittet, Elexis Fredy (by Zoom), Alan Hancock

**ABSENT:** Position #1 is unfilled

**STAFF:** Marie Shimada, Carol Castellano, Josh Pitts

**OTHERS:** Mayor Hughes, Julie Dougherty-Winger, Commissioner Bacon

Chair Lisa Bernhardt called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and determined a quorum of Trust Board members. Fredy participated via Zoom, however access was particularly difficult. Bernhardt then asked for public comment.

There was public comment from two people, with the addition of two written letters to be entered into the record. Borden made comment regarding two of the agenda items relating to an increase in the health stipend and vacation leave and asked that a more thorough review is in order. Hancock agreed, and it was decided to pull the vote on the two items from the agenda for further discussion at the next workshop. Further discussion arose surrounding the Ebey's Forever Grant program. Following public comment, Bernhardt asked for a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 meeting minutes.

*Bernhardt asked for any corrections – Schmitz asked for a correction on her last name. Sturm moved to approve the corrected minutes, second by Hancock. Hearing no further comments or corrections, Bernhardt called for the vote. Motion approved. Minutes will be posted on the TB website at [www.Ebey'sReserve.com](http://www.Ebey'sReserve.com).*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bernhardt called on Borden for the Treasurer's report. Borden noted there were two sets of vouchers – Operations and the Restricted Fund. Borden then passed the vouchers around for review by Trust Board members.

### **PARTNER REPORTS**

Bernhardt called on partner representatives for their updates.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:** Fredy announced that a new Pacific Regional Director has been appointed – David Szymanski.

**ISLAND COUNTY:** As part of the comprehensive plan, the county has adopted a resolution relating to health, in all policies, and Commissioner Bacon urged the Trust Board to look at that.

**WASHINGTON STATE PARKS:** Whittet noted the boat launch was undergoing repairs again but hoped to have those issues solved soon. Program Specialist, Sharon Young Hale is retiring so parks will be looking to hire a replacement soon. State parks is wrapping up 2023 and looking ahead to 2024.

**TOWN OF COUPEVILLE:** Mayor Hughes reported on the Greening of Coupeville event and parade, the red ticket event, and looking at hiring new staff, including a new Planning Director.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Following much discussion, Bernhardt tabled further discussion on the health stipend, vacation policy to the January workshop. Borden suggested the board needs more data before making a decision; McCoy added that she was in favor of continuing the discussion. Schmitz added that while not opposed, more discussion was a good way to go, and that it was important for staff to feel supported. McCoy noted that Whidbey Island Conservation District hired a consultant to analyze ~~their operations~~ compensation levels. It was generally agreed that more information is necessary to make informed decisions.

**Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve  
Minutes of December 19, 2023**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Bernhardt then called on Treasurer Borden to present the vouchers for December. Fredy noted she would abstain from voucher approvals due to poor audio on Zoom.

*Bernhardt asked for a motion to approve the TB Operations vouchers, 24.035 to 24.048 in the amount of \$21,970.62. Moved by Hancock, second by Sturm. Bernhardt called for the vote – Fredy abstained - motion approved. The Operations vouchers will be presented to the county Auditor's office for processing.*

*Bernhardt asked for a motion to approve the TB Restricted Fund vouchers, 24.049 to 24.050 in the amount of \$4,000.00. Moved by Hancock, second by Sturm. Bernhardt called for the vote – Fredy abstained – motion approved. The Restricted Fund vouchers will be presented to the county Auditor's office for processing.*

Bernhardt concluded new business.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Bernhardt called on Shimada to give the Reserve Manager report. Much discussion relating to office, the Ebey's Forever Grant program, staffing salaries and benefits, interpanels funding from the Navy, and cottage exhibit space for visitors.

Mayor Hughes was invited to comment regarding communications between the Mayor and the Reserve Manager.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

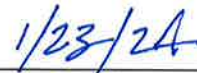
Bernhardt asked for any final comments for Good of the Order. Sturm asked if the board needs to address immediately public comment or if it needs a response from the Trust Board. Borden volunteered to do research on health care options for Reserve staff.

Hearing no further comments, Bernhardt adjourned the meeting at 4:38pm.



Submitted by Carol Castellano, Program Coordinator

Approved 1/23/2024 with corrections.



Date Approved