



health sciences & services authority of spokane county

HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes of the May 6, 2015 Board Meeting

Members Present:

Nancy Isserlis, Chair; Marty Martin, Vice Chair; Kevin Oldenburg, Dave Vachon and Jason Thackston. Mike Wilson and Frank Velàzquez participated by phone.

Members Absent:

Gary Pollack

Staff Present:

Susan Ashe, Executive Director

Gaylene Lewin, Consulting Accountant

Guests:

Bill Savitz, CEO, IGNITE Northwest

Doug Nadvornick, WSU College of Medical Sciences

1) Call to Order

Nancy Isserlis, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3 p.m. The meeting was held in the McKinstry SIERR Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 & 2 conference rooms.

2) Approval of Minutes

Board member Kevin Oldenburg moved to approve the minutes of the March 4th Board meeting and Marty Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Board Actions

- A) Kevin Oldenburg moved that the HSSA Board set aside \$50,000 from which it would make \$5,000 micro grants for start-up companies for professional consulting to assist the company in preparing effective grant proposals for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants that meet the criteria of the federal agency making the grants available and that are related to health sciences research. There would be approximately ten (10) such grants, after which HSSA will determine if the program has merit. This is subject to legal review by the HSSA Board's legal advisor. Dave Vachon seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

4) Chair's Report

Board Chair Isserlis reported that she had signed a series of warrants since the Board last met on March 4th, and when a warrant required two signatures these were provided by either Marty Martin, Board Vice Chair, or Jason Thackston, Finance Committee Chair.

The Chair congratulated Marty Martin, on behalf of the Board for his selection as the next President of Drake University, DesMoines, IA, and indicated that the group would celebrate at the end of the meeting. She gave Dr. Martin a certificate recognizing his service to the HSSA from 2008 through May 6, 2015. Dr. Martin's HSSA Board seat is appointed by the Spokane Mayor who is aware of the vacancy. We encourage qualified candidates to visit the City of Spokane website and apply for the HSSA Board position.

The Chair announced that HSSA has learned that the Spokane County Board of Commissioners has reappointed Dave Vachon to a four-year term, and appointed Dr. Dean Martz, Chief Medical Officer for Urban Hospitals, Providence Health Care, and a partner at Inland Neurosurgery & Spine Associates, to a new four-year term from May 5, 2015 through May 5, 2019.

Ms. Isserlis introduced Bill Savitz, CEO of IGNITE Northwest, to present to the Board information about his organization.

Mr. Savitz describes IGNITE Northwest as a private non-profit with a recalibrated mission from its predecessor organization Innovation Washington, which was defunded and deactivated by Washington State. Its mission is "Moving Companies That Move the Market," and will help start-up businesses succeed in communities of the Inland Northwest. The organization will provide business accelerator services to these organizations in the areas of bioscience technologies, energy innovation and aerospace. It is the only business accelerator in the Inland Northwest. It considers HSSA, Universities, Greater Spokane Incorporated and others as "collaborators" under its business model.

5) Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's Report was included in the Board packet members received at the meeting. She also reminded Board members of upcoming events including the May 21st WBBA Life Sciences Leadership Summit & Board meeting, WSU Spokane; June 30th – July 1st WBBA Life Sciences Innovation NW annual meeting at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle; August 19th NIH/SBIR-STTR Road tour, Seattle; and Oct. 27th – 29th 17th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference, Seattle.

6) Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Jason Thackston reported that he had reviewed HSSA's financials and found HSSA to continue to be in good financial shape. The total tax remittance for the

period ending 2014 is \$431,632, and an additional \$25,315 from Spokane County Allocated Earnings. The HSSA's ending cash balance as of March 31, 2015 is \$11,404,057 with committed payroll tax, grants and bond liabilities of \$9,741,171. Operating expenses through March remain below the 10% goal at 6%.

B) Grants Committee

Grants Committee Chair Mike Wilson noted that the HSSA Grants Committee met on May 5, 2015, at McKinstry. The Committee reviewed a proposal for funding of \$496,190 under HSSA RFP #5 (Invest in human capital and infrastructure to accelerate Spokane's research capacity) from the WSU College of Medicine to fund "Faculty Recruitment/Retention and Research Infrastructure." The proposal was for recruitment/retention of Dr. Marcos Frank and to expand a vivarium remodel to include an additional surgery suite for larger animals. The committee unanimously declined to support the proposal as it had determined that Dr. Frank already had been recruited to Spokane by WSU, and that the vivarium remodel had been completed. The committee could not determine if the second surgery suite was necessary at this time, although it could prove out in the future. The HSSA Grants Committee is interested in future proposal by the College of Medicine, particularly for recruitment for research faculty.

The Grants Committee also unanimously denied a request for \$297,811 in funding by WSU's Dr. Kenn Daratha for a study entitled "Reducing Uncompensated Hospital Care in Spokane County." The intent of the study was to determine the sustainability of interventions after services have stopped. The Committee believed this to be a follow-up study to another study that was the qualifying study for the federal grant that had concluded. Uncompensated hospital costs is important and HSSA has recently chosen to spend its funds on Better Health Together's approach that addresses identifying (by community health workers) individuals who are frequent users of hospital emergency departments and local fire department responses to provide wrap-around services that address the needs/problems this population suffers, thereby actually decreasing usage.

7) **Counsel's Report**

Counsel was not in attendance.

Board Chair Isserlis concluded the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m. The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, August 5, 2015**, at 3 p.m. and will be held at the McKinstry SIERR Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 and 2 conference rooms. **Please note your calendars!**