

**HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of the May 10, 2016 Board Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Nancy Isserlis, Chair; Olúgbémiga T. Ekúndayò, Gary Pollack, Jason Thackston, Dave Vachon, Francisco Velàzquez and Mike Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Dean Martz and Kevin Oldenburg

**Staff Present:**

Susan Ashe, Executive Director

Gaylene Lewin, Consulting Accountant

**Staff Absent:**

James Emacio, Counsel

**Guests:**

Roger Woodworth, Avista Corp. and Avista Development, Mark Mansfield, University District, and Mike Livingston, Kiemle-Hagood Co.

1. **Call to Order**

Nancy Isserlis, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the McKinstry SIERR Building, 850 E Spokane Falls Boulevard, Roundhouse 1 & 2 conference rooms.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Board member Jason Thackston moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting and Gary Pollack seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Board Chair Isserlis reported that she had signed a series of warrants since the Board last met on January 12, 2016, and when a warrant required two signatures these were provided by Jason Thackston, Mike Wilson or Dave Vachon.

The Chair reminded the Board of its remaining 2016 board meeting schedule, which is as follows:

 **Tuesday, July 12**

 **Tuesday, October 11**

The Chair introduced a trio of guests who spoke to the HSSA Board about the various plans and initiatives being discussed in the Spokane are that relate to the Board’s interest to grow the health sciences industry here. They were Roger Woodworth, Vice President, Avista Corp. and President, Avista Development; Mark Mansfield, Executive Director, the Spokane University District; and, Mike Livingston, Senior Real Estate Broker, Kiemle-Hagood Co.

The three provided an overview of the progress of the University District and development plans surrounding it, particularly in the area south of the soon-to-be-built Pedestrian Bridge. Tools the District now has to deploy are its status as a Development Authority and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) capabilities. The group has made several visits to Seattle developers and bioscience interests to discuss the opportunities in the Spokane market. Mansfield has created a great visual by using a drone to fly over the district, which gives viewers a much better sense of current assets by what is already built and accomplished, as well as where future growth is proposed or anticipated.

Woodworth described the efforts of TrippUmbach in returning to Spokane and reviewing where we are in the health sciences/health care arena, and identifying the community assets of Spokane County. A nexus was found in three areas: health care, aerospace and agriculture. There is work underway to define certain companies that fit in this nexus and prepare to attract them to move to Spokane. He discussed a need for research laboratory space either placed in renovated or new buildings. There is a desire to see science (labs) and services co-located. There also was some discussion of the Vision 2030 effort in which Board members Frank Velàzquez and Jason Thackston are co-chairing one of the sub-categories of the effort, health sciences/commercialization.

The Board discussed this presentation and determined that the HSSA Grants Committee should further discuss before HSSA’s next meeting and bring forward any recommendations it may have.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

The Executive Director’s Report was included in the Board packet members received at the meeting.

1. **Committee Reports**
2. Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair Jason Thackston reported that he had reviewed HSSA’s financials through March 31, 2016, and found HSSA to continue to be in good financial shape. The total state tax remittance for the year to date is $457,838, slightly higher than this time last year, and an additional $18,657 from Spokane County Allocated Earnings. Operating expenses through March remain below the 10% goal at 7.7%.

B) Grants Committee

Mike Wilson, Grants Committee Chair, reported that while the Committee had not met since the January meeting, there have been several meetings with interested parties about the need for research laboratory space in Spokane and whether or not there was a financial role for HSSA to have in such development. He also mentioned that three companies have received approval for support from HSSA’s new grant-writing assistance grant, and one was denied. He reported that there has been an uptick in inquiries about HSSA’s grant funding.

1. **Counsel’s Report**

Counsel was not in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM by Board Chair Isserlis.