

**HSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of June 15, 2022**

**WSU Spokane Academic Building, #501 – 3 PM**

**Members Present:** Jason Thackston, Board Chair; Allison Glasunow, Finance Chair; Kevin Oldenburg, Grants Chair; Carla Cicero, Daryll DeWald, Darryl Potyk, Dave Vachon and Frank Velázquez

**Members Absent:** Mike Wilson

**Staff Present:** Susan Ashe, Executive Director; Laura McAloon, Consulting Attorney;

**Guests**: Nancy Isserlis, Alex Jackson, and Cyndi Donahue

1. **Call to Order**

Jason Thackston, Board Chair, established a quorum, invited guests to introduce themselves, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at about 3:05 PM.

1. **Board Actions**
2. Kevin Oldenburg made a motion to approve the March 16, 2021 Board meeting minutes, and Dave Vachon seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the December minutes.
3. Kevin Oldenburg moved to match two SBIR grants for Iasis Molecular Sciences that total $450,000, as recommended by the HSSA Grants Committee. Darryl Potyk seconded the motion which passed with only the abstention of Dave Vachon.
4. David Vachon moved and Daryll DeWald seconded a motion to accept a one-month extension of 2nd Sight Bioscience Amendment No, 1 grant to 6.30.22 at no cost. The motion passed with one abstention by Kevin Oldenburg.
5. Carla Cicero moved and Kevin Oldenburg seconded a motion to approve a request from Dr. Hedeah Hashemi Hosseinabad, Eastern Washington University to add to an existing HSSA grant $24,512 to purchase equipment critical to the existing small grant. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. The Board agreed to fund $10,000 toward a Spokane Regional Health District Quality of Life survey on a motion from Kevin Oldenburg and seconded by Dave Vachon that passed unanimously. It was agreed this would be paid as an operating expense.

Jason Thackston asked for public comment on any of these actions, and there were none.

1. **Board Chair’s Report**

The Chair asked and received approval of the March 16, 2022 minutes. Kevin Oldenburg moved to approve and Dave Vachon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Jason reported that during the interim he signed warrants and where necessary, Dave Vachon provided a second signature, for which Jason thanked him.

Jason led a Board discussion about HSSA potentially helping to fund with other community leaders a proposed regional life sciences survey by JLL, citing a need to update quite dated studies from several years’ ago. There was consensus that the Board was generally supportive but wants a presentation by JLL and proponents.

Jason asked Susan speak of her impending retirement, which formally announced. Former HSSA Board member and chair Nancy Isserlis mentioned that a Search Committee had been identified but had not yet been convened, which would occur in July. Once the Search Committee meets and agrees to the position statement and timing, the Executive Director position will be posted by Spokane County Human Resources Department. Tentative timeline is to allow one month after the posting to receive applications, a few weeks for review followed by interviews of top candidates. It is the intent to have a replacement hired by the end of September or early October.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

The Executive Director referred Board members to their packets for the written report and highlighted key upcoming events.

1. **Finance Committee Report**

Finance Chair Allison Glasunow reported the following update:

* Operating expenses remained below the 2021 10% threshold at 5.8% largely due to the pandemic
* There was a 14% growth in tax collections between year-end 2020 and year end 2021
* HSSA operated below the expected 2021 budgeted expenditures by $31K.
* 2022 operating expenses to date are below the 10% threshold at 5%
* Spokane allocated earnings are 49% lower than the 2021 earnings for the same period.
* The County Treasurer audited the 2021 interest earnings and remitted an additional $1,136 to HSSA in January 2022.
* The January & February sales tax remittance is 15% greater than the remittance for the same period in 2021.

1. **Grants Committee Report**

The HSSA Committee met via Zoom on Monday, April 18th. Chair Kevin Oldenburg promptly called the meeting to order.

Attending were Oldenburg, Dr. Francisco Velázquez and Dave Vachon. Vachon did not participate as a committee member during the meeting, rather as an Iasis Molecular Sciences (Iasis) grant applicant describing his proposal and answering questions.

Iasis requests a matching grant of $450,000 based on two current awards it has received from the NIH/Heart, Lung, Blood Institute (NHLBI) ($225,135) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ($225,000). Both federal grants were made available to the Grants Committee. The intent of the HSSA matching grant will Iasis to prepare to achieve EPA registration that will allow Iasis to sell and license the material for use in Food Packaging and Fluid Transfer Solutions to prevent the transmission of blood-borne pathogens, to maintain the sterility of fluids transferred by tubing used in food production, and as tubing for short-term medical device applications.

The research proposal was approved unanimously by the Committee to be recommended to the full Board for approval.

1. In addition, after the Grants Committee meeting, the Executive Director received in May a request from 2nd Sight Bioscience for a no-cost extension to its Amendment No. 1 through the end of June, 2022, and that second Amendment is recommended to be passed by the HSSA Board.
2. HSSA received a request from Dr. Hedeah Hashemi Hosseinabad, Eastern Washington University (EWU) for research “Ultrasound Biofeedback During Articulation Therapy for Children” for $24,512 for equipment critical for success of the research. We recommend approving the Amendment and funding the additional amount.
3. HSSA received a request to partially find the annual Spokane Regional Health District Quality of Life survey at $10,000. This may be funded by general funds rather than a grant, but due to the amount we wanted to make the Board aware of this expenditure.

The Quality of Life survey results are utilized by healthcare providers, and others to determine gap in service needs. It is also used by non-profit organizations and foundations to determine efforts that would address specific populations needs and areas in which overall health and wellness can be positively impacted by research, education and service coordination or expansion.

1. **Legal Report**

There was no legal report.

1. **Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

1. **Adjournment**

Jason Thackston adjourned the Executive Session at 4:30 PM.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for REMAINING 2022 Meeting Dates:**

**September 21, 2022**

**December 21, 2022**

(The HSSA Board reserves the right to change a meeting date with proper notice).