

State of Wisconsin

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# BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD

## Minutes of the State of Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board

December 5, 2024

Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin  
10:30a-12:50p

- I. Welcome and Call to Order (*Board Chair, Jennifer Haas*)**  
Dr. Jennifer Haas opened the meeting at 10:30am
- II. Roll Call, for Determination of Quorum (*Board Secretary, Paul Reckner*)**  
***Present, In Person:*** Dr. Jennifer Haas, Dr. Paul Reckner, Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Ms. Sarah Thompson, Ms. Amy Wyatt  
***Present, Virtual:*** Mr. George Christiansen, Dr. Katherine Stevenson, Mr. Larry Plucinski  
Absent: Mr. David Grignon  
***WHS Staff Present:*** Tyler Howe, Taylor Lambrigger, Daina Penkiunas, Kay Romanin  
***Guests, In Person:*** Bill Quackenbush, Chris Veit, Sally Lehner, Judy Houston, Mark Houston, Jean Rehse, Lisa Laschinger, Eileen Thompson, Courtney Johnson, Walker Good  
***Guests, Virtual:*** Chris Allswede, CJ Ryan, Frank Vaisvilas, Jay Frost, Leah Penzkover, Mark Geronime, Ryan Duffy, Benjamin Neumann, Bronnie Gruber, Eric Knepp, Larry Johns, Leann Beehler, Rachel Bylington
- III. Approval of Agenda**  
Mr. Plucinski made the motion, Ms. Thompson seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**  
Dr. Stevenson made the motion, Mr. Christiansen seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.
- V. Introduction (*Board Chair, Jennifer Haas*)**
- VI. Public Comment (*Note: A total of 15 speakers will be allowed a maximum of two minutes each on a first come, first served basis*).**  
*Alternating online and in person*
1. Bonnie Gruber
  2. Chris Veit
  3. Sally Lehner
  4. Judy Houston, *on her own behalf*
  5. Judy Houston, *on behalf of the Descendant Community Organization*
  6. Mark Houston
  7. Jean Rehse
  8. Eileen Thompson
  9. Leann Beehler
- VII. Chair Report**  
Dr. Haas reported that she facilitated moving the December board meeting to Madison, discussions with legal counsel, provided information from legal counsel regarding ongoing litigation, discussed logistics for this meeting with WHS liaisons, and prepared exhibits for board members.

**BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD**

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**VIII. Unfinished Business****a. Officer Elections**

Mr. Christiansen nominated himself for vice chair, Mr. Plucinski seconded.

Dr. Stevenson made a motion to move forward to voting on standing nominations for vice chair and secretary. Mr. Plucinski seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Election voting on the nominees of George Christiansen for vice chair, Paul Reckner for secretary. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained

Mr. Christiansen will serve as interim chair until a chair is elected.

**b. Update on Board review of public requests**

The request for information surrounding the construction of Doyne Avenue was discussed, with Taylor Lambrigger giving a report, summarizing the assessment of historic aerial images related to the construction of Doyne Avenue. No further questions or discussion occurred. No further action items identified, and the old business item is considered closed.

**IX. New Business****a. Consideration of Applications for Completion and Entry to and/or Removal from the Registry of Interested Persons****i. Judy Houston, African American burial sites**

Dr. Reckner moved to approve the application, Mr. Christiansen seconded.

Discussion occurred surrounding past precedent and current ability to filter burial sites for the described class. The item was tabled for the next meeting.

**ii. Judy Houston, Euroamerican burial sites**

Mr. Christensen moved to approve the application; Dr. Stevenson seconded.

Discussion occurred surrounding past precedent.

All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

**iii. Samuel Mark Houston, Catalogued Euroamerican and African American burial sites**

Dr. Reckner moved to approve the application, Dr. Stevenson seconded.

Discussion on how many requests to disturb are sent to registry members annually.

All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

**b. Burial Board Process****i. Public correspondence**

The Board confirmed that all public correspondence intended to be shared with board members ahead of a quarterly meeting must be received two weeks prior to the meeting to be considered.

**ii. Unauthorized disturbances**

Recommended process related to investigating unauthorized disturbances be established. It was recommended that those disturbances reported to the board with the recommendation for further investigation at the board level be discussed in a special meeting within a month of the disturbances where possible. Board members discussed testing the proposed process out with all presently reported disturbances with further discussion at the next quarterly meeting.

**c. Board membership updates**

The appointments of Mr. Plucinski and Dr. Stevenson will expire in 2025.

**d. Review of HS 1.04(7)**

Dr. Haas discussed HS 1.04(7), which states that electronic recordings of board meetings must be made. Recommended the board discuss further in a future meeting.

**e. Year 2025 Meeting Dates**

Proposed dates include February 27<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, and December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Haas moved that all dates be accepted, with all four being hosted in Madison with a virtual option, be accepted. Ms. Thompson seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

**X. WITRC Report**

Mr. Bill Quackenbush, the president of the WITRC, provided report. Report included discussions at the university and state level about providing land to the WITRC for reburial purposes, work with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) to discuss NAGPRA updates and changes and completed reburials for dispositions sent to the WITRC by WHS by the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and Potawatomi. Further discussed that WITRC is hoping for training and discussions surrounding tribal monitors and identifying items of cultural significance.

**XI. Wisconsin Historical Society Staff Report**

**a. State Historic Preservation Officer Report (Daina Penkiunas, WHS SHPO)**

Given by Daina Penkiunas

**b. State Archaeologist Report (State Archaeologist, Amy Rosebrough)**

Given by Amy Rosebrough

**c. Compliance Section Report (WHS Compliance Section Head, Tyler Howe)**

Given by Taylor Lambrigger. Mr. Plucinski asked that all reported disturbances be on the agenda for a special meeting for deeper discussion, and Dr. Haas discussed that she and Mr. Christiansen will establish a poll for date and location.

Mr. Plucinski moved to hold a special meeting to discuss all reported disturbances. Mr. Christiansen seconded. All voted in favor; none opposed, and none abstained.

**XII. Announcements**

Reminder that Garrison Ledbury at WHS is handling reimbursements for board members. WITRC meeting is on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Mr. Plucinski moved to adjourn. Mr. Christiansen seconded. Dr. Haas adjourned the meeting at 12:50pm.