

State of Wisconsin

BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD

Minutes of the State of Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board
September 5, 2024
10:30 am to 1:00 pm
Pyle Center

- I. Welcome and Call to Order (*Board Secretary, Dr. Paul Reckner*)**
Board secretary Dr. Paul Reckner called the meeting to order at 10:35am.
- II. Roll Call, for Determination of Quorum (*Board Secretary, Paul Reckner*)**
Present, In Person: Dr. Paul Reckner, Dr. Amy Rosebrough, Amy Wyatt, Sarah Thompson
Present, Virtual: George Christansen, Dr. Kathy Stevenson, David Grignon, Dr. Jennifer Haas
Absent: Larry Plucinski
WHS Staff Present: Dr. Tyler Howe, Taylor Lambrigger, Kay Romanin, Dr. Daina Penkiunas, Walker Good
Guests, In Person: Judy Klimt Houston, Mark Houston
Guests, Virtual: Jeffrey Kloppenburg, Mark Geronime, Ryan Duffy, James Davies
- Roll call indicated quorum was met, and the board moved to the next agenda item.
- III. Approval of Agenda**
Dr. Stevenson made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Christiansen seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
Dr. Stevenson made the motion to approve the August meeting minutes, Mr. Christiansen seconded. Ms. Amy Wyatt noted that content was fine, but header formatting needed to be adjusted. Motion passes unanimously.
- 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*).**
1. Ms. Klimt Houston
 2. Mr. Houston
 3. Mr. Kloppenburg
Note the following public comments were submitted virtually to be read by Ms. Judy Houston
 4. Ms. Carmen Hewitt and Ms. Betty Ollerman
 5. Mr. Robert Felber
Note Board Member Sarah Thompson entered the meeting at 10:55am
 6. Dr. Micheal McBride
Note Board Chair Dr. Jennifer Haas entered the meeting at 11am
 7. Mr. Benjamin Neumann
 8. Mr. Joe Wilson Jr.
 9. Ms. Rachel Sibio-Sanchez
 10. Ms. Luna Sperko
 11. Mr. Dean Collins

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12. Mr. Jesse Smith
13. Ms. Jessica Piemonte

VII. Chair Report**VIII. Unfinished Business****1. Officer Elections.**

The board needs a vice chair to start immediately (term ends 2024) and a chair and vice chair (term January 2025-2027). No nominations were made. Dr. Kathy Stevenson noted that she will not be seeking renewal of her position at the end of her term (July 2025) and thus would not run for a position.

Discussion occurred surrounding concerns about being nominated and what would be needed to support members in taking on those positions, including discussing these positions when looking for future board members.

To note, Dr. Reckner's nomination for board secretary was approved by the board in the June 2024 meeting. An official vote on officers has not yet occurred.

2. Update on Board review of public requests.

Two outstanding comments from members of the public were sent to the Burial Sites Preservation Board from June 2024. The board waited for legal counsel on next steps before commenting.

The first request was regarding "the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee's factual noncompliance on their MOU with WHS for their care of ancestors exhumed in 1991/1992". The board's legal counsel advised that this was outside of the board's purview.

The second public request was related to current construction at Doyne Avenue in Milwaukee and whether the building of a road on top of intact graves is permissible, specifically focusing on the original placement of Doyne Avenue through the historic Milwaukee County Poor Farm cemetery. Legal counsel advised that a report this issue should be made to the board, if one has not already, for the board's review. Discussion on possible board action under the law, as well as what information was needed in the report. Dr. Stevenson requested an agenda item on this issue for the next board meeting.

IX. New Business**1. Consideration of Applications for Completion and Entry to and/or Removal from the Registry of Interested Persons****i. Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel**

Mr. Christiansen moves to include on the Registry, Dr. Stevenson seconds. Discussion on clarifying in the form and in the registry to specify Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel as the registrant, and clarifying site numbers and area if placed on the registry. Motion passed unanimously.

X. WITRC Report

No representative from WITRC present.

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XI. Wisconsin Historical Society Staff Report

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

Report given.

Note that Mr. David Grignon left the meeting

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

Report given and further detailed in exhibits.

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

Report given.

The reported unauthorized disturbances for Picinic Point, Muscoda Mound Group, and Milwaukee Cemetery will be followed up on in the next board meeting.

Discussion about the development of materials about the burial law for consultants to distribute to clients, and if this pamphlet is necessary.

XII. Announcements

The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee is hosting the Midwest Archaeological Conference in October and hopes to see everyone there. The Wisconsin Archaeological Society is honoring Leslie Eisenberg and Heather Walder with awards at those meetings as well.

XIII. Adjournment

Dr. Reckner adjourned the meeting at 12:14pm.