Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys

Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 3, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular winter 2012 meeting of the WSAMA board of directors was called to order by President Joe Svoboda at 10:00 a.m. in the MRSC conference room in Seattle, WA.

The following board members were present:

Joe Svoboda, President
Lori Riordan, First Vice-President
Patrick Mason, Secretary-Treasurer
Bruce Disend, Immediate Past President
Robert Beaumier
Tom Brubaker
Tim Donaldson
Howard Delaney
Cary Driskell
Scott Snyder
Paul Wohl

Absent:

Dan Glenn, Second Vice-President

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. E-mail from Mark Johnsen, Asst. City Attorney of SeaTac on Conference Locations - Mark sent an e-mail to Pat outlining reasons why the Board should consider holding a WSAMA conference in the central Puget Sound region. Primarily his reasons are that more members could attend without having to travel or spend the night. The Board reviewed this memo.
B. **Letter on Indigent Defense** – A letter was sent to Justice Charles Johnson, Rules Committee Chair, Supreme Court of Washington expressing opposition to the adoption of the proposed Indigent Defense Standards being considered by the Supreme Court. This letter was sent on October 14, 2011 on behalf of WSAMA and the Association of Washington Cities and was cosigned by the Presidents of both organizations.

C. **Letter on Access to Judicial Administrative Records** - A letter was sent to the Washington State Supreme Court, care of Justice Charles Johnson, expressing grave concerns about the practicality of implementing the new proposed court rule relating to access to judicial administrative records. This letter was dated November 18, 2011 on behalf of both WSAMA and AWC and was cosigned by the Presidents of both organizations.

4. **REPORTS AND MINUTES** –

   A. **President's Report** – There was no Presidential report at this time.

   B. **Secretary's Report** -

      **Conference WiFi Access** – Pat raised a question concerning whether the Board was in favor or providing free WiFi access to all conference attendees in the meeting room during the conference. The Board was in favor of providing such access even if there was an increased cost. Past indicated that there often is such a cost but it is relatively nominal in terms of overall conference expenses. In the future, there will be free WiFi access during the meetings and also power strips throughout the meeting rooms for laptop connections.

      **Attendance Policy** – The Board adopted an attendance policy at the summer, 2011 Board meeting. It was not possible to integrate that policy into the registration process for the fall, 2011 conference. However, it will be implemented as part of the registration process for the spring, 2012 conference. The Board did not feel that any specific notice or explanation to the members was required before implementing this policy.

   C. **Treasurer’s Report** – Pat reported that the Fall, 2011 WSAMA conference had a net revenue of $4302. This represents revenues of $44,715 and expenses of $40,413. Pat indicated that speaker rooms and limited travel expenses were provided for several of the speakers, primarily from Seattle but also for a county and state speaker. This was authorized by the Board but the conference still was profitable for WSAMA even with these limited payments for speakers.
D. Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2011 - There was a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2011 board meeting. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Court Rules – It was noted that besides the letters that WSAMA and AWC sent to the Supreme Court on proposed court rule relating to Indigent Defense, Hugh Spitzer of Foster Pepper also sent a letter to the Court. It was suggested that the letter that WSAMA sent to the WSBA Board of Directors on misdemeanor caseload limits be sent directly to the Supreme Court.

Also, the Board is interested in having a WSAMA representative meet directly with Justices of the Supreme Court concerning the proposed court rule on Indigent Defense Standards if such a meeting can be arranged.

B. Conference Issues – An issue arose at the last conference when one of the attendees placed an initiative petition on a state ballot measure on the WSAMA registration desk to obtain signatures. WSAMA does not have a formal policy either allowing or prohibiting such activity.

The Board expressed concern about allowing this and a policy was proposed that would give guidance to the staff who are at the registration desk if this occurs again. The proposed policy is as follows:

“The registration table and related facilities are reserved for registration materials and the distribution of other conference or association related materials.”

It was moved and seconded to pass adopt this policy and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Finally, in an effort to increase the number of conference evaluations returned after each conference, the Board approved conducting a drawing of those who return their forms and awarding a free conference registration as a prize. The surveys will be prepared and made available to attendees so that they can be filled out during the conference.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. WSAMA Awards for 2012 – Pat presented the report from the Awards Committee. The recommendation from the Awards Committee was that Pat Fitzpatrick, Assistant City Attorney of Kent, be awarded the Outstanding Service Award for his work in relation to the proposed court rule on indigent defense standards.
The WSAMA Board unanimously approved this recommendation to give the OSA to Pat Fitzpatrick for his outstanding service on behalf of WSAMA and local governments on this issue.

The Awards Committee also recommended that the WSAMA Amicus Committee receive recognition for their outstanding contributions on behalf of WSAMA over many years. The Board agreed with this recommendation also.

The award to Pat Fitzpatrick will be made at the spring, 2012 WSAMA conference but it was also suggested that it be arranged for a Board member to also make the presentation at a Kent city council meeting.

B. Conference Site Selection for 2013 – Pat presented the conference site selection report for the spring, 2013 WSAMA conference. It was moved and seconded to select Semiahmoo Resort for the spring, 2013 conference. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Pat also presented the conference site selection report for the fall, 2013 WSAMA conference. It was moved and seconded to select the Marcus Whitman Hotel in Walla Walla, Washington for the fall, 2013 conference. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board requested the Secretary to prepare a Master List of possible conference sites that have enough capacity for a WSAMA conference.

D. 2012 Spring Conference Planning –

1. Civil Topics Report – Tom presented the civil topics committee report. The Board largely accepted this report with a few suggested revisions, which were noted by the Secretary.

2. Criminal Topics Report - Joe presented the criminal topics committee report. The Board approved the criminal law topics report.

3. Meals and Entertainment – This conference will follow the usual format for meals and receptions. The awards for 2012 will be presented at the luncheon on Thursday. Hugh Spitzer will be invited to speak at the luncheon and give a report on his recent visit to Cuba as part of a delegation of Washington lawyers.

E. Nominations Committee – Bruce Disend as Immediate Past President was appointed the chair of the nominations committee. There will likely be just one board vacancy to fill for the next term.

7. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was officially adjourned at 12:40 p.m.