



**Embrace Whidbey & Camano Islands  
Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2025 – 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room**

**Committee Members Present**

Chair - Jackie Henderson - Coupeville Town Council  
Vice Chairman - Bryan Stucky - Oak Harbor City Council  
Treasurer - Greg Lanza - N.Whidbey Lodging, Wildwood Farm  
Secretary - Lynda Eccles – Coupeville Chamber of Commerce  
Langley Chamber of Commerce - Nicole Worthington-Johnson  
Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce – Dannah McCullough  
Freeland Chamber of Commerce – Angela Muniz  
Clinton Chamber of Commerce – Emily Zenz  
Unincorporated S. Whidbey Lodging - Max Lindsay-Thorsen,  
Unincorporated Central Whidbey Lodging - Aly Willis, Captain Whidbey Inn  
Mayor Kennedy Horstman – Langley City Council  
Kristina Heinz – Economic Develop Council of Island County  
Langley Lodging – Tom Felvey

**Creative Team Present:**

Inge Morascini – Marketing and Program Manager  
Scott Rosenkrantz - Graphic Design/Branding  
Krista Loercher – Regenerative Places Program  
Dianne Binder - State Reports  
Hannah Corbin – Social Media  
Erin Osborne – Media Relations

**Absent:**

Jill Johnson - Island County Commissioner  
Alannah Johansen - Cama Beach State Park  
Jessica McCready – Camano Island Chamber of Commerce

**Guests:**

Tabitha , Travel Blogger  
.....Explore Whidbey Island

**Public on Zoom:**

David Price, Langley



### **Call to Order**

Chair Jackie Henderson, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and established t there was a quorum.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Jackie Henderson asked if there were any changes or additions to the January 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 Agenda There were none, so the agenda was approved.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Jackie Henderson asked if there were any changes to the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. Nicole Worthington Johnson said she was marked as not present on December 11<sup>th</sup> but she was in attendance.

**Brian Stuckey made motion to approve December 11, 2025 minutes with the change requested by Nicole Worthington Johnson, seconded by Lynda Eccles and the motion passed by the full Board.**

### **Public Comment**

Chair Jackie Henderson asked if there was anyone from the public present who wished to make a public comment. There was no public comment.

### **Treasurers Report**

#### **Approval of Invoices**

Greg Lanza Treasurer presented the December batch of Invoices for payment in the amount of **\$63,403.12**. Greg Lanza also made a note to the board that there were two invoices added to the batch but are included in the \$63,403.12.

**Brian Stuckey made a motion to approve payment of the December Invoices totaling \$63,403.12 seconded by Lynda Eccles and the motion passed by the board.**

### **Finances for December**

**Greg reported on the Budget vs Actual report and noted that we were well within our Budget for 2024. Brian Stuckey made the motion to approve the Budget vs Actual report, seconded by Lynda Eccles and the motion was passed by the board.**

### **Revenue from State**

Diane Binder provided the Board with copies of the Revenue from the State of Washington.



## **Business Update**

Chair Jackie Henderson announced that she had received a Public Records Request from David Price that includes records from Whidbey and Camano Islands Tourism and records of her personal and Town emails.

In a complaint letter to the Executive Board Mr Price questioned, among other things, the validity of our budgeting practice and stated that the budget had not been approved or passed by the board. The minutes of our July Board meeting show that the Budget was approved and submitted to the County. The budget was approved as part of the County public budgeting process and the Whidbey and Camano Islands budget is included in the county budget.

Mr. Prices complaint letter and the response by the Chair Jackie Henderson, was reviewed and signed. Copies were sent to all board members after the meeting.

Nicole Whittington-Johnson raised a number of questions about the budget saying it had not been approved, that she had not voted to approve it, and that the approval was not in the minutes. Upon further review, the approval was in the minutes from the July meeting and that the board had voted to approve, and that Nicole Whittington-Johnson had been present at the meeting

Questions were also raised by Nicole Whittington-Johnson as to the movement of the organization to a 501 (c) (6) and the new agreement being circulated to the municipalities and county government. Nicole Whittington-Johnson stated that she did not think the new agreement had the appropriate controls. In addition she stated that the board had not approved the agreement. The rationale for the change was outlined by Inge Morascini and Chair Jackie Henderson and the agreement controls were stated as being the same as those in the old agreement. At Nicole Whittington-Johnson's request it was agreed that these topics would be added to the agenda for the next board meeting.

Nicole Whittington-Johnson asked that the current agreement being circulated be put on hold and the request was seconded by Mayor Kennedy Horstman. Bryan Stucky motioned that the agreement be put on hold for no more than 60 days as Oak Harbor Chamber had already signed the Agreement and the motion was seconded by Angela Muniz.

Nicole Whittington-Johnson raised several further questions and requested answers. Chair Jackie Henderson asked that any further questions from any board member be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing prior to its next meeting and that they would be taken up at the next board meeting.

## **Election Process**

Chair Jackie Henderson said that we should move on to the election process.

Nicole Whittington-Johnson raised the question as to why we didn't move ahead with the election today. Chair Jackie Henderson asked the board if there was no objection we move forward instead of completing the process next month. There was no objection and the election moved forward.

- Chair Jackie Henderson announced this was the end of her term and she would not be running again.
- Lynda Eccles said she would not stand for another term,
- Nomination was made by Chair Jackie Henderson that Bryan Stuckey as the Chair (Note: The Chair of the Tourism Committee must be an elected official)
- Nomination by Dianne Binder to maintain Greg Lanza as Treasurer and was seconded by Lynda Eccles. Greg Lanza accepted the position.
- Nomination was made by Nicole Whittington-Johnson for Angela Muniz to become Secretary but Angela Muniz refused the nomination, Nicole Whittington-Johnson then nominated Dannah McCollough of the Oak Harbor Chamber for the position and she accepted.
- Nomination was made for Nicole Worthington Johnson to be Vice Chair who accepted the position.

Chair Jackie Henderson called for a vote of the slate and it passed the board.

### **Contract Extensions**

**Vice Chair** Bryan Stuckey raised the question of Contract Extensions suggesting that personal service contracts be extended for three months, as the contracts expired at the end of 2024. The topic had been raised in the December meeting but a vote of the board had not been taken.

Nicole Whittington-Johnson objected to the three-month extension and suggested a 30 day extension, stating that the contractors knew their contracts were up at the end of 2024.

Bryan Stuckey pointed out that 30 days was not enough time for the questions that had been raised earlier in the meeting with reference to the Interlocal to be resolved within 30 days

**Motion by Vice Chair Bryan Stuckey to approve to extend contracts for three months was made and seconded by Greg Lanza and the motion passed unanimously by the full board.**

### **PR Marketing Manager Report**

Inge Morascini presented 2025 Media Plan. Nicole Worthing Johnson suggested that we do not use PBS in the future as they are not in our demographic. It was decided that the 2025 plan would remain in place and we would have more discussion for the 2026 plan.

**Motion made by Mayor Kennedy Horstman to approve the 2025 Media Plan, Ali Willis seconded and the motion passed.**

### **Creative Team**

Each of the creative team provided a short report due to timing.

### **Chamber Updates:**

Chambers provided a brief report on what was coming up in their area.

There being no further business, Chair Brian Stuckey closed the meeting at 1.50 p.m.

### **Next Executive Committee Meeting**

Executive Committee Meeting: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> at Captain Whidbey Inn Wellness Center (which is the building on the right, behind the mailboxes before you turn left into the driveway of the Inn. If you get lost you can check in at the front desk of the Inn)!!

**NOTE: (Executive Committee (Officers of the Joint Board as per the Interlocal Agreement Amendment 3 dated 2011 Being: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary made up of representatives of the 4 geographic areas (Oak Harbor, Coupeville, Langley and Island County) the Marketing & Promotions Manager is also included.**

**Next Full Board Meeting**

February 6 2025, 11 a.m – 1:00 pm at Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce

Minutes submitted by

Lynda Eccles

Secretary, Embrace Whidbey and Camano Islands