

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Terry Church's office

Members Present: Terry Church, Megan Card, Chris Lanese, Trevor Zandell, Janet McClanahan Moody, Chris Coker, Laura Murphy, Bill Pope, Mark Wheeler, John Skinder,
Members Absent: Patrick O'Connor, Lenny Lucenko
Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33pm
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2016 Board meeting** –Chris L moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Laura. The motion carries without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 National Adoption Day – Martin Meyer has requested a donation up to \$300 to provide adoption bears and appetizers for the National Adoption Day on November 17, 2016. Trevor moves to approve, seconded by Laura. The motion carries without objections. There was a consensus to add this donation to the budget in future years.
 - 3.2 Salvation Army- Adopt-a-Family Program – Lenny would like to continue this program again this year. The Board voted unanimously to continue this great community program.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 United Way Day of Caring update – John reported this was a fun event on September 30. The team of TCBA volunteers were at Nature Nurtures Farm along with Heritage Bank and Community Youth Services. The tasks included clearing black berry bushes, taking down a few old sheds, and general clean up around the farm.
 - 4.2 Board Retreat update – Heather will add some December dates and some Sundays in hopes to have more Board Members available on the same day. Heather contacted the Dispute Resolution Center for a facilitator.
 - 4.3 Judicial Portraits update- An email was sent to the members requesting donations.
 - 4.4 Supreme Court Judicial Forum – request to sponsor update – Megan talked to the Patricia Dickason, President of the League of Women Voters Thurston County. The TCBA is one of the sponsors for this event. They are open for questions from the TCBA members. The event is on October 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Olympia Center.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Janet McClanahan Moody) – September Financial Reports – Terry moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Chris L. The motion carries without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Trevor Zandell)- The CLE presented by Michael Wampold on September 23rd was well received. On October 28 is a CLE presentation on the Land Trust and Carbon Credit Program presented by Joe Kane of the Nisqually Land Trust. The November 18 CLE speaker will be Judge Daniel Berschauer presenting on Mediation Tips. If anyone has any ideas for future topics, please let Trevor know. The Hotel RL venue is working well. At future CLEs, Trevor will provide information about upcoming events and announcements and ask if there are any guests attending. John shared that the HUB at SPSCC is a possible CLE venue in the future. Laura will send Heather the contact information for the SPSCC Event Manager.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Megan sent an email to the Board about meeting with the Judges. She will resend it to the Board to find out availability.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, John & Megan, Chris L.) – The Committee is working on finding some new members to be on the committee.
- 7.3 Newsletter – The next Legal Brief will be sent to the members in November. October 25 is the deadline for articles and advertisements.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Paul Battan) - The Family Law Section has our monthly meeting next week. We will discuss whatever topics those who attend want to bring up but also have two scheduled topics – access to JIS/JABS reports, and what is going on with the WSBA and its relationship with the sections – specifically the Family Law Section – that may affect us. I have put together a survey (using SurveyMonkey, which I have never done before so we will see how that goes) to the section’s attorneys to gain some insight into their perspective on the work GALs do. We will send it out next week or the following week. It is probably fair to say that, in general, attorneys have not been satisfied and we hope the survey will help the family law community understand why and be able to address this in some way. Our plan is to encourage the GALs to attend the November section meeting so we can discuss this together. I will let you know how that goes.
As usual, this month we distributed to section members by email a newsletter, a meeting agenda, and any announcements the court or section members have asked us to distribute throughout the month.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Chris Lanese) – On October 25th from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Abigail Stuart House there will be a Beer & Justice For All fundraiser.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Megan Rue) - We continue to hold our monthly lunch get-togethers at I.talia and they have been very well-attended recently. On September 22nd the Honorable Judge Mary Sue Wilson presided over a formal swearing in ceremony where she admitted five local attorneys, Tracy West, Stafford Strong, Marguerite Schauer, Brendan Crowley, and Ron Henly, to the practice of law in Washington State.
- 8.4 Criminal Defense (Paul Strophy)- no report
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law Committee (Martha Wehling) – We had presentations from 6 people to discuss the basics of land trusts in Washington. Mark Peternell of BGWP opened up the discussion to talk about working with land trusts and the basics of how they fit into the legal practice. He discussed the foundations for conservation easements and discussed the implications for future generations as well as the landowners. He explained the limits on land trusts and the type of land they can acquire, as well as the limits on the types of grantees. John Way of BGWP discussed the tax considerations for conservation easements. He discussed what qualifies as a conservation easement for tax purposes, and then discussed the various income tax benefits. He provided practical tips for attorneys and also brushed up on the values of conservation easements for estate tax benefits. Laurence Reeves then discussed how the Capital Land Trust operates, and discussed how land owners can work with CLT through their attorneys. He discussed the factors they use on how they decide to conserve property and how acquisitions are funded. He also went into the importance of the stewardship foundation and donations for maintaining the conservation easements. Joe Kane then discussed the Nisqually Land Trust and how it is both similar and different other land trusts in Washington. He talked about their efforts to work with landowners in conserving threatened and endangered species. He also briefly touched on the Carbon Credit Program and how it could be a useful tax incentive to landowners working with land trusts, while preserving natural resources. Loretta Seppanen discussed the South of the Sound Community Land Trust, which is vastly different from the other two land trusts. Their goal is

to allow landowners to continue to farm property, and she discussed the various options that landowners have in terms of working their property through farming, donating their property and entering into either agricultural ground leases or conservation easements. Finally, Andrew Deffobis discussed Thurston County's Conservation Futures Program and how they work with the three land trusts to acquire land and protect critical areas. The Conservation Futures Program can be used in conjunction with land trusts for acquiring conservation easements. It is another option to landowners if their land qualifies.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

John Skinder has decided to leave the TCBA Board per November 1, 2016. He has been on the Board since July 1, 2007. Thank You, John, for your years of dedication on the Board!

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** November 9, 2016 at Megan Card's office

12. **Adjourn** 6:19pm