

Sitka Alaska Permanent Charitable Trust  
Meeting minutes  
May 18, 2011

7:05 Thad Poulson calls meeting to order.

7:06 Roll Call - Roll call - Members present: Thad Poulson, Steve Reifenthuhl, Cmdr. Doug Cameron, Holly Reeder, Stan Filler, John Holst, Members absent: Dr. PJ Ford Slack

7:07 Motion made by Thad to have Cmdr. Doug Cameron and ASB President Holly Reeder vote in final award amount, moved by Steve, seconded by Stan

7:08 Steve brings to the board's attention that Dr. PJ Ford Slack has awarded funds in excess of the \$120,000 award limit, Thad explains to the audience that the Trust must spend 5% of the account value in order to avoid being penalized.

7:10 discussion involving PJ's award amount, made a separate column with an equal percentage for each group of what she originally allocated to adjust her number to equal \$120,000

7:25 Cmdr Doug Cameron discusses his thoughts for the amounts he awarded, things that seemed pressing for the community and children were give financial priority

7:27 John Holst agrees, says he based his awards on what will have the largest impact for the biggest group of people, especially kids. He feels that the music festival should be fully funded because it has a big economic impact on the City of Sitka and is a good investment for Sitka, he notes that he did not fund some groups because they didn't have pressing needs

7:30 Steve Reifenthuhl says he based his decisions on the trust document guidelines, and wanted to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people. He said he wanted to support new programs that are trying to get off the ground versus programs that are already well funded and established. He also wanted to fund programs that support kids who are less fortunate.

On the science side he noted that Sitka is incredible with programs such as Whalefest and the science that it brings to the classroom, the Sitka Sound Science Center and the new programs that it has added to Sitka. He recognized that these programs are new and need help because they have financial uncertainty. In regards to the Sitka High School (SHS) Science Department he read from the Trust Document that states "the SHS Science Department will be the finest program in the state", however he doesn't feel that the proposal or the presentations meet the criteria as stated in the document. He feels that the board should send a message to SHS that they can be better/do better and their proposal was not an "A" (in comparison to the other science proposals/presentations). The board needs to set an example so that SHS will work to make positive changes.

7:37 Thad Poulson agrees with John Holst about funding the music festival and recognizes that they have an enormous fundraising task. He can justify \$10,000 for them. He also wants to fund Jazz Fest and Sitka Fine Arts Camp as they are both important for Sitka. He continues to say that books are important for the preschool and Braveheart does excellent work, but is largely a volunteer program. He agrees with Steve about the funding for the Sitka Sound Science Center (that it will need a lot of financial support to keep it going). He said it was a well presented proposal. However he would like to cut the SHS Science Department some slack because he knows they have to reach each kid who comes through the door, not all are necessarily science minded and that the teachers there put in more time than what they are paid for and do an excellent job. He finishes with commenting that Whalefest is doing amazing things and has a wonderful program.

7:42 Dr. PJ Ford Slack not present to talk about her awards.

7:43 Stan agrees with Thad, doesn't think there are any teachers who don't work as hard as they can at SHS and that they do a great job. He notes that with 6 new applicants this year it was a tough job to make sure all groups get some funding so they can continue their good work

7:46 Holly Reeder says she looked at who would be most affected, has experience with Whalefest and knows that it is a huge event that represents the entire region (Southeast Alaska), she tried to look at which groups would be ok without full funding this year

7:48 Steve comments that he routinely hires scientists in the work world, and doesn't want to target any specific teachers, but the SHS proposal is only about equipment and supplies. It needs to include more inspirational programs, such as Whalefest. He would like to change his numbers.

7:49 John Holst agrees with Steve, the SHS Science Department didn't seem to include anything in their proposal that would be new or exciting, it was just sustaining what already exists.

7:49 Dr. PJ Ford Slack arrives. Thad tells her that her numbers cannot exceed \$120,000 and reviews the process with her

7:50 Dr. PJ Ford Slack reviews the percentage that the board has created using her first set of allocations.

7:55 There is commentary about adjusting the columns to reflect 55% in column A (culture/arts) and 45% in column B. Thad says the board does have some leeway and asks for comments. Steve says that the trust document says it should be split 50-50 and doesn't see a compelling reason to change. Doug agrees, says that other than the SHS presentation, everything seems worthy in the science column. Thad decides they will stay at the 50-50 split for each column.

8:01 PJ makes her remarks about the numbers she gave – Jazz Fest is not an educational 501.C3 event, which means that perhaps the funds should be pending. There is discourse about if the event is actually an SHS account or not, it is decided that it is currently an SHS account, but will be moved to a 501.C3

8:03 Steve tells PJ about the SHS Science part of the trust document and reiterates what he has already explained (the proposal is asking for equipment and supplies, it is not creating a program that encourages science development in the high school, it is not striving to be the finest program in the state). Steve wants to reduce their funds to send a message and would love to return here again next year to see a full proposal for new and innovative programs. He did meet with the science department last year and is disappointed to see that there was not any change.

8:08 PJ responds saying that she would not argue that this isn't the finest program, but she is enamored by the SHS Science Department and what they have put together. The Chemistry and Physics classes have a lot of students that do very well, unlike most schools in Alaska. The proposal from the SHS Science Dept put together can be a better proposal that represents the good work they are doing, which wasn't evident in the proposal or presentation that was done this year, but they do need the money for their supplies and equipment because the Sitka School District doesn't have the money to fund that department well.

8:14 Thad says that in fairness they should be clear that the document states that SHS *will have* the finest program, meaning they are striving for this and since they have such limited resources, he can justify trying to help them achieve this goal (through funding of supplies and equipment)

8:20 There is talk of an SJ replacement. Thad suggests Larry Edwards as someone who was involved in the original suit. Steve would like to see Sitka Sound Science Center represented, this will be further discussed at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. John comments that he would be more than happy to continue serving on the board.

8:26 Discussion on next meeting date: 2 weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, January 10, 2012 at 7 PM in the Sitka High School Library

8:28 Steve moves to adjourn the meeting, Doug seconds.