

BSC Board of Directors Meeting (At the Open Meeting) September 24, 2025

Present: Sienneke Stevenson, Jackie Miller, Sue Cushman, Glenn Briskin

Meeting called to order at 12:28pm.

The minutes from the August 11 meeting were approved.

Board member George Hargenrader has been unable to attend several months of meetings. Jackie moved that we remove George from the board; Sue seconded. Approved. George would be welcome run for the board in the future.

Treasurer's report from end of July. Edward Jones investments = \$263,315. Wells Fargo Checking is \$88,682. An update for the money market account is not available but it was last at about \$14,000.

President's report:

We continue meeting with the Whatcom Community Foundation and the Whatcom Council on Aging as potential fund management and senior advocacy partners. . We attended a meeting organized by the organizing committee of the Blaine Community Fund. They had expressed interest in having us be a part of their fund. This is a fund with the Whatcom Community Foundation set up for the benefit of the city of Blaine to fund community and economic development. As they will only serve projects within the Blaine city limits and as they are a very general fund not focused on seniors, we will not be pursuing a merger with them.

Elections: Kelle Sunter will lead the nominations committee. She handed out a flyer about the general election which will be held in December (Date TBD). She also has application forms for board candidates. She encouraged all to send their email address to bbbseniors@yahoo.com. Kelle asked those interested in helping with the nominating committee and elections to please contact her. Completed Nomination forms can be scanned and emailed to bbbseniors@yahoo.com or handed to a board member or Kelle.

Membership: Sienneke discussed how the current membership needs better definition. While members were passed on to Parks and Recreation for use of the senior center, their relationship to the nonprofit may not be clear. The board developed a motion to address this. The motion was made that all persons who were members as of June 30, 2025 will continue to be members of the nonprofit through June 30, 2026. This was discussed with the members present and general agreement was expressed. The motion was passed. This membership definition will determine who can vote in the December election.

Kitchen equipment donation: Two serving tables were ordered. Cold and hot tables. This equipment will be donated to the meals on wheels program.

Questions and feedback from the membership were solicited.

The official meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

Rob from the Whatcom Council on Aging (WCA) gave a presentation on the Meals on Wheels program gave a presentation. Key Points:

WCA has several programs – Bellingham at home, SHIBA, the Bellingham Senior Center, and Meals on Wheels (MOW). MOW is 80% of the WCA program budget. MOW also covers San Juan County. MOW follows federal guidelines for meals support. It reports to the Northwest Regional Council which oversees the federal funding for senior nutrition programs funded by the government.

MOW aims include providing meals, education, and social activities as part of the meals program. MOW provides community lunch meals 5 days a week at Bellingham, Ferndale, and Blaine. 1-2 per week at Pt Roberts and the San Juans. Meals are both food and social and contact with support from staff and volunteers. They also provide home delivery to over 500 seniors through volunteers. They both provide food and check in with seniors observing their health.

No one is ever denied a meal. MOW asks for \$6 per meal donation. Meals are available to those age 60 (55 for native Americans) and up. Home delivery requires qualifications regarding one's ability to care for themselves. Qualifying people can also receive meals for spouses or domestic partners or disabled dependents.

MOW saw gradual growth in community lunch meals from 2010-2018. Home delivery has increased by 60% and stayed high since the pandemic. But Covid funding has stopped. Community meals are now only about 60% of what they were before the pandemic. During the pandemic MOW added a To Go program allowing seniors to do a pickup. To Go is now closed. In 2025 community lunch meals are rising. Blaine in 2024 received about 11,000 meals.

Funding: Meals cost about \$12 to prepare and deliver. The government covers about \$5.40 per meal from federal, state, and local sources. 55% comes from other sources. Subaru, Haggen, and the Chuckanut foundation and other donors regularly provide about \$1.68 per meal. Donations of \$6 per meal are requested from those served. The average donation is \$1.56. Fund raising is required to fill in the gap. Going forward, government funding was approved but is not increasing. The senior population is expected to grow by 40% in the next decades.

Kate, in charge of WCA fund raising presented.

The Bellingham senior center is moving to a new building which will include a new commercial kitchen for MOW. The new kitchen will allow medically tailored meals and more cultural diversity in food. MOW wants to transition away from buying frozen meals from other providers so they can be made in house and frozen for delivery.

In a short work session after the presentation:

The board agreed to change the weekly work session time to Tuesdays at 10:30-12:30.

Bylaw changes and ways to build up a sufficient quorum for the election will be required. We agreed to send a mailing to the full list of members. Glenn will create mailing labels from the spreadsheet with addresses.