

**Northwest Montana Estate Planning Council  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2024, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Basement Meeting Room, National Parks Realty, Whitefish, Montana**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Aaron Ells, Michelle Clary, Connie Page, Grant Snell, Jasmine Morton, Kelly O'Brien
<b>Guests:</b>	Zach Barber, Brian Goodfried, Helen Pegram, Carol Savage, Craig Woods, Addison Vergara
<b>Absent:</b>	Jennifer Crowley, Alan Davis, Michelle Finch, Bryson Pelc, Johanna Pickle

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Conclusions/Actions/ Recommendations/ Motions</i>	<i>Follow Up</i>
Opening Remarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. President Aaron Ells welcomed the attendees who braved the blizzard to attend the NW Montana Estate Planning Council's first meeting!</li> <li>2. Aaron explained the mission and purpose of the organization, explained the connection with the national Estate Planning Council organization and associated benefits, and reviewed the website.</li> <li>3. Aaron reviewed the 2024 speakers for the remaining meetings which can be found on the website.</li> <li>4. All attendees introduced themselves.</li> </ol>		
Meeting Minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With no prior meeting minutes to review, Secretary Grant Snell reviewed the list of pending members, which will be admitted as members before the next meeting. These pending members are: David Wiggington, Shay Smithwick-Hann, Deborah Pearson, Addison Vergara, Erika Dorrington, Cody Kirk, Brad Corntassel, and Zach Barber.</li> </ol>		
Treasurer Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Treasurer Bryson Pelc was absent, so Aaron explained that the organization will soon have its bank account connected to the payment portal on the website to allow online payment of dues and guest fees.</li> </ol>		

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Sponson Recognition	1. Thrivent Financial sponsored the meeting, and Michelle Clary spoke about Thrivent, her experience with estate planning councils in other locations, and the process of starting the NW Montana EPC.		
Speakers	1. CPAs Marija Berney and Lana Kadoshnikov with JCCS spoke about 2024 tax updates from an estate perspective. They primarily focused on Montana's new pass-through entity tax and its application to pass-through entities and trusts and estates.		
<b>Adjourn</b>	1. The meeting was adjourned.		

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