

Board of Health Minutes, 1890-1908

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Board of Health
Title	Board of Health Minutes
Dates	1890-1908 (inclusive) 1890 1908
Quantity	2 volumes
Collection Number	3200-01
Summary	Minutes of the Board of Health, 1890 to 1908.
Repository	Seattle Municipal Archives Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 archives@seattle.gov
Access Restrictions	Records are open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

The Board of Health was created by the 1890 City Charter with authority to supervise the health and sanitation of the City. The Board comprised three physicians (at least two of whom were in practice), who were appointed by the mayor; board members served staggered three-year terms. The Board was authorized to appoint a physician as Health Officer, who served as board executive and city physician; the Health Officer was also required to make monthly reports of birth, death, and other health-related statistics to the Board. The Board met twice per month.

The Board of Health's further authorizations and responsibilities included declaring quarantines, establishing pesthouses, making inspections of public buildings and schools, closing public buildings in case of epidemic, and appointing officers such as a Plumbing Inspector and Meat Inspector.

The Board of Health was abolished in 1908; the new position of Health Commissioner took over the duties of the Board and the Health Officer.

Content Description

The Board of Health minutes include monthly reports (1890-1892) of the Health Officer with statistical summary of deaths and nuisances reported. Reported in minutes are meeting proceedings, citizen complaints and subsequent Board actions, bills approved, and City Chemist reports on analysis of milk

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv60542>

samples. Subjects include births, deaths, sewers, drainage, contagious diseases, building inspections, vital statistics, food inspections, and burials. The original minutes are in two bound volumes.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Board of Health Minutes, Volume [number], Record Series 3200-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Board of Health Minutes, 1890-1908

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Volume		
1	Board of Health Minutes	1890-1905
2	Board of Health Minutes	1905-1908

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Building inspection--Washington (State)--Seattle
Childbirth--Statistics--Washington (State)--Seattle
Communicable diseases--Statistics--Washington (State)--Seattle
Food adulteration and inspection--Washington (State)--Seattle
Health boards--Washington (State)--Seattle
Mortality--Statistics--Washington (State)--Seattle
Public health--Washington (State)--Seattle
Sewerage--Washington (State)--Seattle

Corporate Names :

Seattle (Wash.). Board of Health

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government

Form or Genre Terms :

Minutes

Finding aid prepared by Shannon B. Lynch
2004