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AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE SELECTION OF A REPLACEMENT
VEHICLE FOR BOARD AND STAFF USE

January 22, 2019

Background: At the December 11th 2019 Board meeting, President McBride originated an Ad Hoc committee to explore the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Board and Staff use. The committee will be made up of Director Larry Coulombe and Director John Burkhart.

Requirements: The replacement vehicle will be an SUV model to seat five people and luggage and will have all-wheel drive (AWD) or four wheel drive (FWD).

Actions: On January seventh 2019, an internet search was conducted for SUV models with three-row seating and all-wheel drive or four wheel drive. The search found six midsize SUV vehicles with those features. The Committee will recommend the best vehicle to the full Board.

On January ninth the Committee visited a local dealer and evaluated the Ford Explorer and the Dodge Durango.

On January tenth the Committee visited the Palm Springs area and evaluated the Toyota Sequoia, Hondo Pilot, Hyundai Santa Fe., and the Subaru Ascent.

Evaluation methodology: In each vehicle, one or both Directors sat in the driver's seat and in the second row to evaluate the ease of entrance/exit and comfort. The Consumer Reports (CR) was also consulted and their evaluations scores are seen below next to each candidate vehicle.

Findings: The Committee recommends the

SUBARU ASCENT (CR 88)

2019 Subaru Ascent (CR 88)
Candidate

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A look at each vehicle.

Ford Explorer (CR 53). Driver's seat seemed cramped. Second row seat behind driver's seat had no leg room. Knees touching back of seat. Access to third row seating very difficult. Director Coulombe sat in third row jump seat. NO leg room. Vehicle seems cramped, narrow.

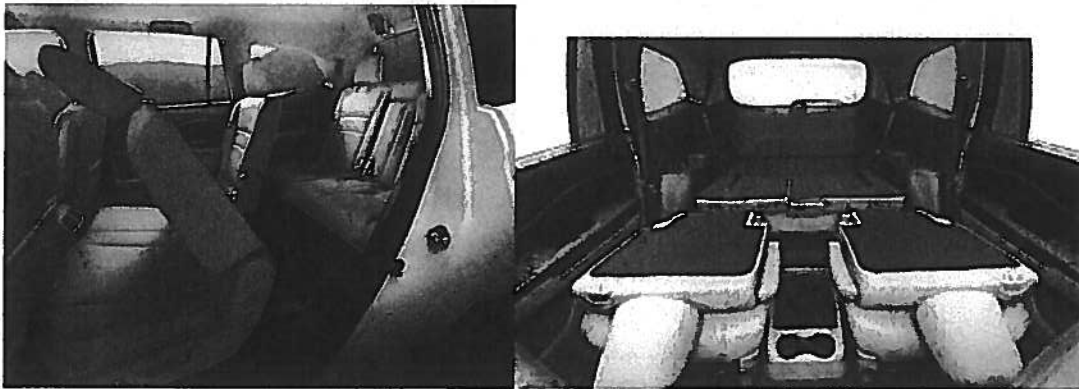
Dodge Durango (CR 63). This vehicle was almost a duplicate of the Explorer. Better leg room second row – about 2 inches knee clearance to back of driver's seat. Difficult to enter third row.

Toyota Highlander XLE (CR 85). Also looked at Toyota Sequoia. Both very similar. Better driver's seat design. Second row had more leg room. Wider body. Third row entrance difficult. Have to pull up second row seat to reach third row. Difficult to re-configure third row seating. Must be done by pulling seat release points using cloth straps.



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Honda Pilot (CR 73). Good front seat design. Roomier interior (more height). Third row Seating folds down. Very little knee room in third row. Easier to reach third row if “Captain’s Chairs” are installed in second row. Otherwise drink module gets in the way. Good safety features.



Hyundai Santa Fe XL SE (CR 79). Good front seat. Second row leg room good. Appears to be slightly narrower than the Honda Pilot. Good safety features. Captain’s chairs available in second row.

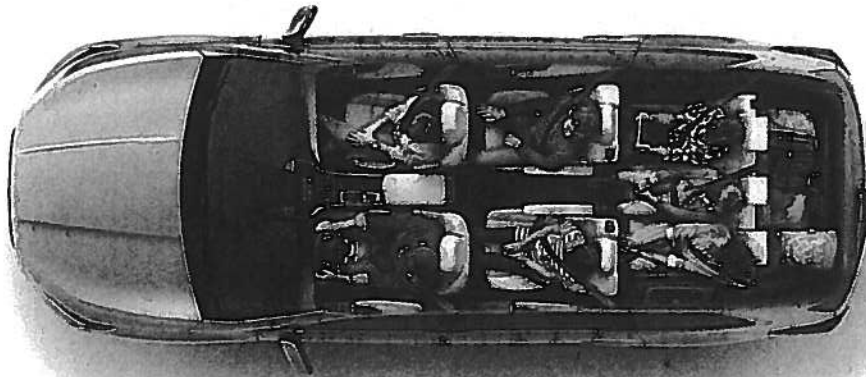


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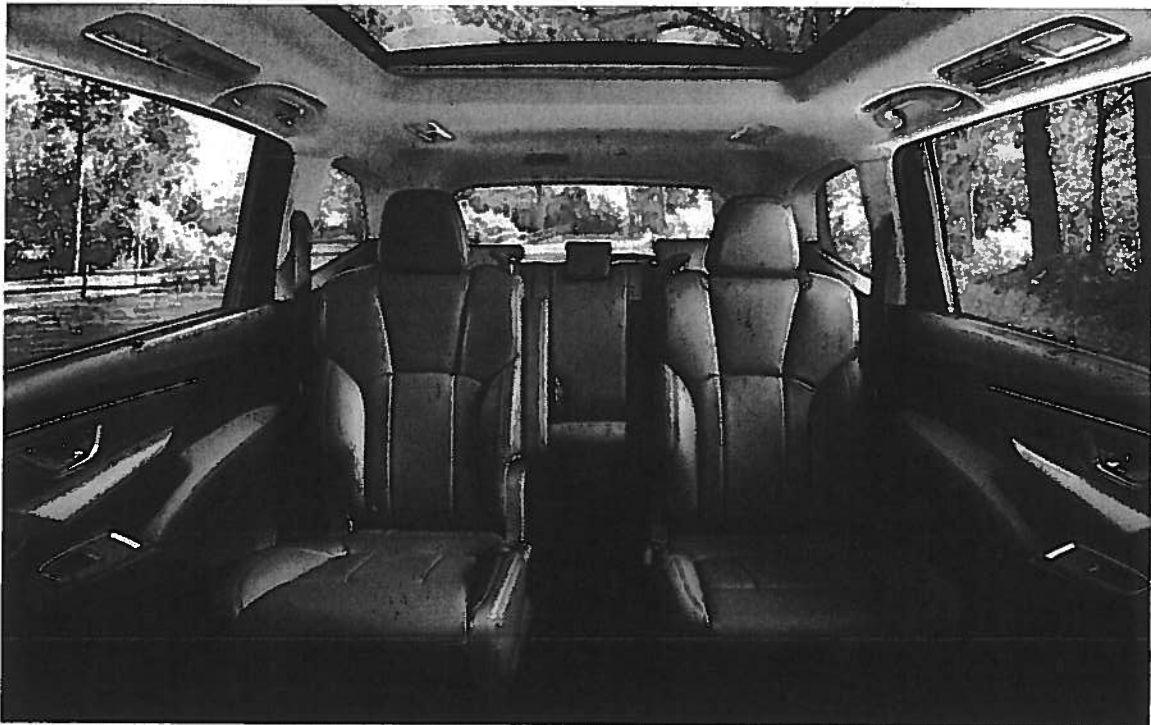
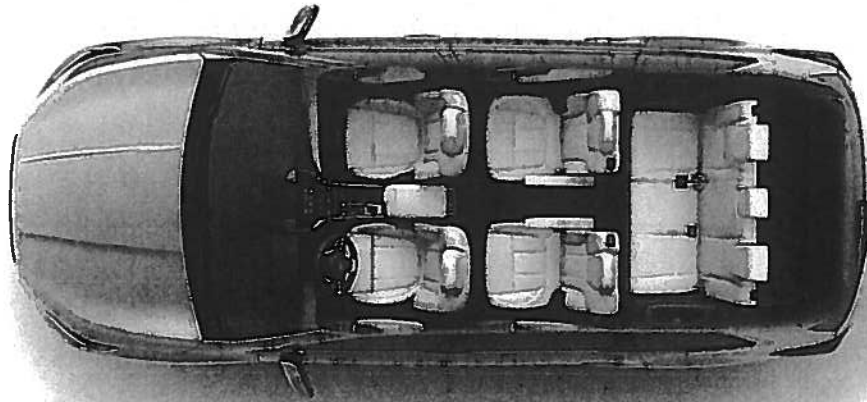


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Subaru Ascent (CR 88) By far the best we looked at. More leg room in second row and easy entrance to third row from second row with Captain's chairs installed. Asymmetrical all-wheel drive. Most safety features of any model. Towing capacity of 5,000 pounds and 260- hp engine. Per local dealer, car comes with one hour of instructions on operation of features. Remote start and set car temperature using your cell phone.



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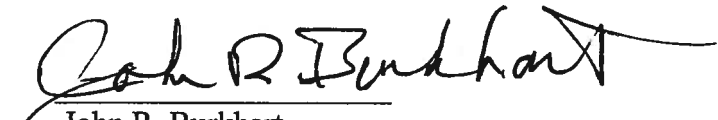
Notes: Most models have second row seating for two or three passengers if that model has bench seating option.. Third row seating can be split in a 60/40 combination, one or two seats upright. In all models the luggage space is limited. The third row is really meant for children. However, with one adult in the third row, five adults total, there is much more room for baggage.

The Subaru Ascent is the only model that had the most room, and the most safety features. Consumer Reports gave this model the highest rating. It was also priced very competitively. We strongly suggest this be our next board/staff vehicle.

Respectively submitted this 22nd day of January, 2019.



J. Larry Coulombe



John R. Burkhart

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