

Board of Museums and History Meeting, March 19, 2021

Acting Administrator's Report

UPDATE: MUSEUM OPERATIONAL STATUS

Due to COVID-19, the museums have operated with reduced schedules since June 2020. Following CDC guidelines and Governor mandates, the visitor capacity was incrementally increased and today stands at 50%. The NSM in Las Vegas was an exception during this time due to its location on the LV Springs Preserve campus. All museum have safe visit protocols in place, barriers at public interaction points.

In March 2020, all museums except the Ely Railroad Depot had positions frozen due to a state fiscal crisis. Position restoration has already begun with some positions being filled now, and submission of requests for filling in FY 22.

Nevada Historical Society

The NHS Staff hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Public Hours: The Museum and Store is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Research Library is open by appointment Wednesday through Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FY 22 Anticipated Operating Schedule: With the addition of one more employee, and depending on the return of vaccinated volunteers, the NHS museum will be open to general visitors up to 3 days per week. The Research Library by appointment only, Tuesday through Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Staffing: See Vacancy Status list.

Request to fill Librarian position is under review.

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

The NSM staff hours vary depending on positions: Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Springs Preserves opens March 19.

Public Hours: NSM re-opens on March 20: Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Manpower worker beginning in March to assist with guest services.

Springs Preserve is handling all ticketing and checking ticket entry. They will send a reservation report on Friday with stats for the weekend. The museum will check tickets and track museum admissions.

Expand hours in May: depending on circumstances, NSM will expand hours Friday through Sunday.

Staffing: See Vacancy Status list.

Recent Resignation, Curator II, History (Crystal Van Dee)

Pending Hire, Museum Director III

Staffing Request in FY 22: Curator II, History. Needed for manuscripts, research, community outreach and exhibit changes.

MDTF Staffing Request in FY 22: Museum Attendants (up to 2). Needed for guest services.

Staffing Request in FY 23: Maintenance Worker IV. Will also support exhibit prep.

Nevada State RR Museum, CC

Public Hours: Operating full time. Thursday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Train Ride activities resume in May at 50% capacity.

Staffing: See Vacancy Status list.

Request to fill Maintenance Supervisor is submitted.

Nevada State RR Museum, BC

Public Hours: Display Pavilion, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:30pm

Rail Explorers Operates 5:00 pm to 10:00 PM, Thursday through Monday

Train rides are TBD pending lifting of COVID restrictions.

Staffing: See Vacancy Status list.

Staffing request in FY 22: Maintenance Repair Specialist

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum

Public Hours: Monday -Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays, 8 a.m to 6 p.m., Sundays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Staffing: No staffing vacancies.

Lost City Museum

Staff Hours Wednesday through Sunday.

Public Hours: Operating Friday through Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Staffing: See Vacancy Status list.

Staffing request in FY 22: Museum Attendant (MDTF)

Nevada State Museum, CC

Staff Hours Monday through Saturday.

Public Hours: Operating Wednesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional operating days will be possible with restored Security Guard.

Staffing: See Vacancy Status list.

Staffing request in FY 21: Facilities Manager

Staffing request in FY 22: Security Guard

Museum Director restored when Administrator position is filled in FY 22.

81ST SESSION LEGISLATION UPDATES

AB 103, Revises NRS 381.196

Removes exemptions:

“Revises Section 2. A person is not required to obtain a permit pursuant to subsection 1 to engage in a lawful activity on private lands, including, without limitation, construction, mining, mineral exploration, logging, farming, ranching or a federally authorized activity conducted in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, if that activity is engaged in exclusively for purposes other than the excavation of a prehistoric Indian burial site *and the activity occurs only on a portion of the private lands that does not contain the known prehistoric Indian burial site.*”

To eliminate the need for any fiscal impact to the museum, we submitted memos requesting a word change. We were then sent a revision by the LCB which we approved of. However, the original bill, sans the LCB amendment, was workshopped on March 17. We were not requested to provide testimony or provided a means to speak. The committee voted “do pass.”

AB 84 (2019), Conservation Bond Re-authorization

On March 11 at a joint committee hearing, the Deputy Director of the Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources presented priorities in the Governor's budget for spending AB 84 Conservation Bond funds dedicated to museums: \$1 million for the East Ely Depot Museum's Freight Building, and \$2 to \$2.5 million for the NSRM-BC Visitors Center Design and Construction drawings.

SB 87, Revises NRS 381.004.

Eliminates the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum.

Report on Senate Government Affairs Committee Meeting: On February 24, the Senate Government Affairs Committee heard a presentation to eliminate the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum as a state museum. Anticipating this hearing, the Board of Museums and History unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the bill on February 19, which was made part of the record. Following the bill presentation at the SGA Committee meeting on February 24, calls were taken voicing support, opposition, and neutral opinions. On behalf of the museum, Board member Alicia Barber stated the Board's position. Nevada Division of State Lands Administrator, Charlie Donohue, entered testimony on how the action would set a precedent for the state handing over a functioning agency to a nonprofit agency. Myron Freedman entered testimony noting the action was not generated by the state, why and how the state has preserved these historic assets for the benefit of all Nevadans, and a commitment to pursue a productive partnership with the Foundation. Peter Barton, Sean Pitts and Dan Thielen also spoke on the record. All of the testimony and comments are available on the NELIS website.

AB 270

Meeting March 24, 9 AM Assembly Comm on Gov. Affairs.

revising provisions relating to the accounting of certain fees for the use of the buildings and grounds of the former Stewart Indian School; revising provisions related to the Silver State Industries Endowment Fund and the Endowment Fund for the Historic Preservation of the Nevada State Prison;

(1) Existing law requires the Board of Museums and History to create a trust fund for the deposit of certain money that becomes available from grants, donations and gifts to be used for further study and development of the historic property of the Nevada State Prison. (NRS 381.243) Section 9 of this bill eliminates the requirement to create the trust fund. Section 8 of this bill requires that any money remaining in the trust fund on July 1, 2021, must be deposited in the Endowment Fund for the Historic Preservation of the Nevada State Prison.