

**Meeting Minutes**  
**BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY**  
**June 11, 2020**

Location  
**Videoconference**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Stoldal, Chairman  
Robert Ostrovsky  
Bryan Allison  
Dr. Alicia Barber  
Dr. Sarah Cowie  
Dr. Doris Dwyer  
Mercedes de la Garza  
Jan Petersen  
Seth Schorr  
Anthony Timmons

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

E'sha Hoferer  
Daniel Markoff

DEPARTMENTS PRESENT-TOURISM, CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES ATTORNEY GENERAL

Brenda Scolari, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs  
Myron Freedman, Division of Museums and History, Administrator  
Carrie Edlefsen, Division of Museums and History, Administrative Services Officer  
Pat Malloy, Division of Museums and History, Administrative Assistant  
Mary Beth Timm, Lost City Museum; NV State Museum Las Vegas, Museum Acting Director  
Daniel Thielen, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, Museum Director  
Catherin Magee, Nevada Historical Society, Museum Director  
Rebecca Palmer, DCNR, State Historic Preservation Office, Administrator  
Harry Ward, Attorney General's Office, Deputy Attorney General

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION via video conference- Scott Dam, Friends of Nevada Southern Railway

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00am and confirmed a quorum was present and the meeting was posted in accordance with NRS 241. **(1,2)**

Board Announcements and Meeting Logistics. The Chair stated that meeting discussion will consist of budget review, dedicated budget investments and funds, oversight of memberships. Chair Stoldal and members Doris Dwyer and Bryan Allison terms expired June 30, 2020. They will remain legal board members until an announcement of reappointment or replacement is made by the Governor. **(3,3A)**

Public Comment: Harry Ward, Nevada Deputy Attorney General, noted that if email(s) were received for public comment that it should be recorded. Public comment via teleconference or electronic mail was received. **(4)**

Acceptance of Minutes. Members Mercedes de la Garza, Alicia Barber and Doris Dwyer suggested revisions to the March 6 agenda items 25 and 35. Minutes will be amended with revisions. Member Anthony Timmons had voted nay on item 25. Noting that member Schorr participated in the meeting, joining late. May 19<sup>th</sup> Finance

Committee meeting minutes approved. Member Dwyer raised point of public attending the meeting, but not indicated in minutes. The host of future meetings will be notified of public attendance to ensure names are recorded. Member Anthony Timmons made motion to approve the minutes and motion was seconded by member Bob Ostrovsky. Motion carried without dissent. **(5a-b)**

Calendar for Next Meetings. Friday, September 18, 2020 via videoconference platform or in-person at Boulder City or Las Vegas museum with videoconference option. December 4, 2020 meeting to potentially take place at the Stewart facility in Carson City. Member De la Garza motioned to approve item. Alicia Barber seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. **(6)**

Brenda Scolari, Director of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, presented department budgets and staffing levels, ongoing modifications to FY20, FY21 budgets to accommodate general fund and significant tourism reductions, voluntary leave without pay. Department began to experience 90%-95% reduction in revenue at the end of May, 2020. Reopening the museums will reflect 40% lodging capacity. Projections 40% reduction from FY19 funding levels throughout FY21. Nine staff layoffs and 30% pay reduction of remaining staff through mandatory voluntary leave without pay. Reopening plan is a living document. Recovery plan has been established. Destination development community planning will be initiated in coordination with other state departments. Closing Travel Nevada Las Vegas office, downsizing to new location. Some of the recovery plan programs may be eligible for a \$1.5 million CARES Act grant to help augment budget loss. Submitted application soon, pending input from GOED. Addressed questions from members. There will be a 45% reduction in the tourism transfer. Operating only on cash reserve balance carryover from FY20 budget. Cash reserve balance FY21 was \$4.9 million. Director Scolari committed to reviewing how the money will be distributed from hotel room tax by the end of the calendar year. Chair Stoldal emphasized the need to treat all divisions equally relating to budget adjustments. Carrie Edlefsen indicated that total reduction target for lodging tax transfer is \$1,702,866. The Board will review status of incoming funds from room tax at the December 4 meeting. Budget is typically \$30million. Projection is \$8 million-\$10 million. State of Nevada overall deficit is \$814 million. **(7a)**

Member De la Garza recused herself from item 7B1 as she is currently the architect for the remodel on that project. Rebecca Palmer, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has a nomination for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral for the National Register of Historic Places. Kristen Brown, Architectural Historian SHPO, summarized the nomination. Rebecca Palmer is sending an approval sheet to all board members. Motion passed with one abstention. Chair voted in favor. Two nominations in process; El Rancho Hotel, Wells Nomination amendment for Las Vegas High School. Two inquiries potential new National Registry listings; Bob's Big Boy Las Vegas, Gem Theater, Pioche, Patricia Tripple House, Reno. **(7b)**

Myron Freedman, Administrator Division of Museums and History, presented the status of the budget, staff reductions, operating cost reductions, adjusted hours of operation for museums. FY21 anticipates severe reductions. Priorities were to preserve as many jobs as possible, operate the museums and maintain the collections. Measures taken to meet 19% reduction: Mandatory Voluntary Leave without Pay 30%-40% effective July 1, six staff laid off, early retirement, phased-in retirement, Carson City and Las Vegas Nevada State Museum Director positions frozen. General fund reduction 19%, combined with known lodging tax transfer reduction, 35%-40% cut division-wide. Mary Beth Timm indicated that Springs Preserve is open, she is meeting weekly with staff and looking at reduced museum hours of operation. PPE has been installed in some of the museums. Signage is being developed with mask and social distancing detail. Staff, volunteers, visitors will be required to wear a mask at all times inside the museums. Elderly volunteers are encouraged to remain home for their safety. Press release being developed. The state museum in Carson City will be opening on June 17, Railroad museum June 19, Historical Society open June 15. Lost City will open early July. Ely and Boulder City museums are open. **(7c1)**

Possible Action: Myron Freedman posed the idea of establishing restricted donation/crisis fund account for museum operations and staff salaries for at risk cultural museums. Dan Thielen: potential revenue streams through producing unique coins, medallions produced in Carson City. Chair Stoldal: Potentially, the funds would be managed by the board as restricted donations. Alicia Barber: clarified donations would be funds received in addition to existing donation mechanism in place. Carrie Edlefsen: In the trust funds there is the ability to collect donations in two different ways. 1. Restricted donations, which are directed by the donor as to specifically how they're going to be spent. 2. Accept donations that are unrestricted. We receive restricted and unrestricted types of donations. In the last couple of years there have been several large, unrestricted donations that have gone specifically to particular museums. The mechanism is in place to accept a donation. The danger is in trying to figure out a way to accept donations into the executive budget account. Many people do not want to donate into the state or the fact that they know that executively the state will offset those donations and reduce other funding support. So, the trust fund is the method to do this with oversight by the Board for these funds.

Attorney General would need to review viability. Member Ostrovsky: There would be long-term consequences and would not favorably vote if motion was raised. Jan Petersen/Myron Freedman: Free copper medallions were a success. Another event is being planned. Member Ostrovsky made motion for Myron Freedman to compose letter to Governor's Budget Office, and Governor Sisolak, explaining we have a dedicated trust fund account. The board will receive donations through that method. Motion seconded by member Barber. Motion passed. **(7c2)**.

Possible Action: Warren Nelson building purchase order withdrawn. Discussed impact of MDTF. Myron Freedman: Met with UNR's real estate team, asked for extension of closing to evaluate fiscal atmosphere with transaction. Due to fiscal uncertainty, decided to withdraw offer. Member Barber comment: A lot of money in that fund that is not going toward the purchase of a building. Do we want to reinvest that money in existing building or invest elsewhere? Catherine McGee: We have not purchased anything for the move. Member Barber: Can consider NEH grant that is available mid-year, annually.

**(7c3)**

Agency Reports - Status of museums, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, SFY20 were presented by Administrator, Directors of respective museums. Reports emphasized staff shortages, methods of generating revenue, employee leave without pay, online sales, history projects. Jan Peterson made motion to approve **(7.d.4)** JRM Trust \$339,000. Motion seconded by Anthony Timmons. **(7.d 1-7)**

Committee Reports –Morgan Stanley quarterly investment report and account balances. Harry Ward: No action required. 8.e.1 Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021 budgets for Museum Dedicated Trust Fund. Motion by member Ostrovsky, seconded by member Timmons. 8.e.2 **(8.a-e)**

Annual Board review; fees, admission days: Myron Freedman, no significant changes from last year. Catherine McGee, free Fridays during May older American month. Chair Stoldal-open up museums free of charge. Carrie Edlefsen: At the end of the year, the Nevada State Museum in Carson City ends up having the ability to cover usually their entire amount of all their operating, not salaries, but operating through admission charges. So, those funds get reverted back to the general fund and tourism. Same with Railroad Museums, Carson City, and Boulder City, they are legislatively approved to support their own operating categories through train ride charges and admission fees. That would put them at a definite disadvantage. Opening up the museum would put a greater burden on general funded lodging tax. Motion by member Doris Dwyer to adopt fees for admission and train rides and free admission days for SFY2021 pursuant to NRS 381.0045. Motion seconded by member Mercedes de la Garza. **(9)**

Private funds budget adjustments, current year. Changes were not requested by the Division Administrator or the Board of Directors exceeding \$5,000. **(10)**

Consent Agenda: Restricted funds received \$1,000 Bank of America to support reaching people of color and women audiences at Nevada State Museum Las Vegas. Restricted funds \$500 received by Nevada Historical Society honoring Gregory Cox. Member Bryan Allison made motion to approve and member Mercedes de la Garza seconded the motion. **(11)**.

Board member comment on items that non-agendized items: Chair Stoldal, member Ostrovsky: Discussed potential special legislative session taking action prior to July. Member Mercedes de la Garza made mention of no native American representation. **(12)**.

Future museum Board agenda items: Member Ostrovsky: Morgan Stanley report. **(13)**.

Public Comment: Member Allison confirmed with Scott Dam that museum memberships are extended by quarter due to closure of museums. Scott Dam indicated that he estimates that Friends organization, Boulder City will be spending approximately \$100,000 this year in supporting the museum. **(14)**

Meeting adjourned 3:43 p.m. **(15)**