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Board of Museums and History

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 9:00 AM

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION THAT THE MEETING WAS PROPERLY POSTED**

Stoldal: For the record, please begin the recording of the meeting of December the 9th of the Nevada Board of Museum and History, that recording is now underway. I would like to formally call to order the Nevada Board of Museum and History for Thursday, December the 9th, 2021. Was this meeting properly posted?

Freedman: Myron Freedman for the record. Yes, it was.

#### **2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Stoldal: Agenda item number 2, please call roll to determine if we have a quorum.

Austin called roll with Stoldal, Dwyer, Cowie, Markoff, Schmitter, Schorr, Timmons present. Mooney is excused. Not present were Petersen, De la Garza and Hoferer.

Freedman: Count the total Megan, how many are present?

Austin: Eight.

Freedman: We have a quorum.

#### **3. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEETING LOGISTICS (Information only)**

Stoldal: Thank you very much. Let's then move on to item number 3, board announcements and meeting logistics. As a note, the action items that are or the items on the agenda that are denoted for possible action are the only items we could take

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action on. And as she already mentioned, these meetings are being recorded on audio and transcribed for the public record. You should identify yourself moving forward speaking. And again, please keep your microphone on mute. And a couple of other points, we'll take a break about 10:30, probably a lunch break about 12:00, 12:30. If we need one, we'll take a break in the afternoon. And then second, when we get to agenda item 9d, the membership committee report and the 10c, the membership board policy, we'll combine those two -- and we'll likely combine those two tomorrow morning.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is welcomed by the Board. A period of public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda, but before voting on the item. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers. Page 3 of 6 Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, Section 2, public comment options may include, without limitation, written public comment submitted to the public body via mail or email.**

Stoldal: Item 4, public comment. Public comment is of course welcome by the board. A period of public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda but before this board votes on that item because of time consideration, the period for public comment by each speaker maybe limited to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers. Secondly, it has been the operation policy of this board with -- question goes to board members, have you received any communication from a public that is to be entered into the board public record? Seeing and hearing none, I will ask the same question to the staff, have staff received any communication from the general public that should be included in the board's minutes at this point?

Freedman: I have a message from someone from the public. I can read it out now. For the record, this e-mail is from Larry Hamilton [ph] and is directed to Chair Stoldal and members of the Board of Museum and History. "In repeated transcript references, I hear that Chair asking, if members have received public comments and the consistent refrain is that they have not. Colleagues, I have reviewed the web pages for the Nevada Board of Museum and History and struggle to find an appropriate manner to communicate with the Chair and/or members of the board directly. If direct communication paths [ph] do exist, I'd appreciate knowing about those paths [ph]. I might use them and share them with other interested individuals. If they do not exist, I would recommend that they be developed quickly, so that the public can directly share our impressions,

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thoughts, hopes and dreams regarding the maintenance and development of the various museums in Nevada and their associated programs.”

- Stoldal: I thought our e-mails were all names and information is listed on the website, is it not?
- Freedman: The names are listed but there are no e-mails attached to those names. I responded to Mr. Hamilton that my e-mail, it can be used and he's welcome to share it, to receive comments. And then I also shared with him that, you know, the Department of Tourism is undergoing a review and transformation of the websites. So, part of that process we can include a comment e-mail right on the webpage thereunder the division. We will move in that direction.
- Stoldal: My name is in the phonebook. The question is, as part of the bio information, does the board think that we should also include our individual personal e-mails or should any communication go through the administration and then to the board? Anybody have any thoughts on that?
- Markoff: I think we should have direct communication with the public. They may want to speak with us individually, knowing our views on some things and I don't think it should have to go through the bureaucracy first. That's my opinion.
- Stoldal: I saw another hand, please Schmitter?
- Petersen: I think everybody in the world has got my e-mail anyway, including a few I didn't want anyway. I'm fine with people having a direct communication with me.
- Stoldal: Other comments?
- Schmitter: Can we have something simple like board@ and then it's on the website. If anyone has a comment, they can go through that e-mail, that's either monitored by Myron or yourself. And then if they want to speak to somebody and in particular region, then you can funnel them over.
- Freedman: Michelle, that's what I was thinking we would do with the revised website is to have a thing like that. But we can also under the board profiles which are in need of updating, we can add contact information if you want and Chair perhaps that's an individual thing.
- Stoldal: Two thoughts, I like Michelle's idea and yours as well and secondly, when we're updating the bios for those board members that would like their e-

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mail included in their bio, please just send that to Myron and we will do that. My policy is on public boards, I would prefer to have all public communication be public. So, I certainly would like to hear from the general public on any of the issues that are part of the board but as far as making any commitments or direction or set of policy individually, one-on-one, that should be done in the public process. That should be done during public comment and/or as a board agenda action item but we are here to listen to the public. Any way that is done, you can go Robert Stoldal on Google and you will find a whole bunch of ways to get a hold of me, including some information that is (inaudible). So, the answer I think, Myron, is if we can set up a place where the general public, an easy spot where they can click on, send that information to you and then you can resend it to us. And then secondly for those board members that would like to have that attached to the bio, let's send that information to Myron and those would be the first step. Those have to be the first step and if we need to improve that or get another way to create better communication to the public, let's move forward, at least we can do those two things administratively. Is that alright for the board? And Harry, that fits in with the responsibilities.

Ward: And just so the public know, this was a public comment and the board did have a brief discussion which is very permissible to do that. The board cannot take any action but there are recommendations by the Chairman and recommendations by the individual board members. And if they follow up on their own recommendations and do what they want, that's fine. Once again, this is not an action item but in the event that someone wants to put on another agenda for an action item, we can do that, but everything that we done is permissible on the open meeting law as per the suggestion of the Chair.

Stoldal: Great. Thank you very much Myron and if we feel that we need to get this on our next thing to really ratify the policy rather, just make (inaudible) this administrator, we'll put it on as an action item but let's at least move forward to set up some sort of communication as we go forward.

Ward: It must be also noted that on all of the agenda, there is a contact person at the end to acquire agenda materials and stuff like that. So, if the general public would read the agenda and read at the end, you can contact certain people and it is on the end of the agenda.

Stoldal: I see that Deborah's name is in the actual contact information as well as the telephone number. I think we should make it as easy as possible for the general public to get hold of us and express their thoughts as he so desires and dreams as we move forward with all of the museum system [ph], so. Thank you for that communication. And, of course, that is part of

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the Governor Sisolak's declaration of Emergency Directive 006, Section 2 that public comment options include without limitation, written public comment submitted to the public body via mail or e-mail and this particular one came by e-mail. Let's then move on, Myron unless there's other communication from the staff?

Freedman: No sir.

**5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES (For possible action on items a & b)**

**a) September 24, 2021 Board Meeting. Transcription available at <https://nvmuseums.org/meetings-agendas-minutes/>**

Stoldal: Let's move on then to item number 5, the acceptance of the minutes for possible action. There are two items there. The first one is the September 21st, board meeting. The transcription is available and I will say that if you take a look at the e-mail that Myron sent out on December the 2nd to the full board, there's a line there and I will read it, Myron's quote. The good news is that a new transcription service will summarize and we are working on the minutes for this meeting to prepare a brief of those minutes. So, I think that's the full length of the transcript is on the website available for the public as well as the board. I would look for a motion on item 5a. That's the September 21st board minutes transcription approval.

Unknown: Mr. Chair, you may have misspoken, it's September 24th. So, when we do have a motion, please let's get it correct. Thank you.

Stoldal: Okay, September 24th, 2021. Jan?

Petersen: I move that the September 24th, 2021 minutes be approved as rescinded.

Stoldal: We have a motion.

Markoff: I second it.

Stoldal: We have a motion, we have a second. Further discussion of the board? General public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? I heard no opposition. The motion passes unanimously with those in attendance.

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**b) November 18, 2021, Membership Committee. Transcription available at <https://nvmuseums.org/meetings-agendas-minutes/>**

- Stoldal: Let's move on to item number 5b, acceptance of the minutes of the November 18th, 2021 membership committee. Transcription is available on the board's website. This would be a motion to accept those minutes. Doris?
- Dwyer: I move to approve the membership committee minutes of November 18th, 2021 to be approved.
- Stoldal: Do we have a second? Jan Petersen? We have a motion, we have a second. Further discussion of the board? Anthony?
- Timmons: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the DAG, if it's required that somebody who attended the meeting actually make the motion and a second.
- Ward: Generally, no. We run into, we being the Attorney General, often [ph] ran into a lot of problems where boards go through many board members and you have many board members that have left the board and then you say, how can they approve minutes? What you approve is to the form. The form being that they've done something and they don't approve to the content. So yes, that can be done and I might have to address that also when it comes up to contracts and MOUs at a later time.
- Stoldal: This is a motion to accept the minutes as they are written. Jan or Doris?
- Dwyer: I just want to make a comment on these minutes. I mean they were really, really interesting and informative and I'm not so sure it was so much the minutes, is that probably a very well-run meeting by Anthony. I mean it was very informative for people who aren't there. So, thank you Anthony.
- Stoldal: Agree. So, we have a motion. We have a second. Further discussion of the board? General public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor say aye.
- Group: Aye.
- Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with the Chair voting in favor with those present.

**6. CALENDAR FOR NEXT MEETING (For possible action)**

- a) March 11, 2022, Stewart campus. Approved 9/24/21.**

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Stoldal: Moving on to item number 6, calendar for the next meeting. This is a possible action item. There are four items under 6, the first one is March 11th for the Stewart Campus. We approved that at our September 21st meeting. Any further discussion on that? I think that the overriding for umbrella or context is that as we have faced in the last year and a half, it depends on several things. And we will reaffirm that certainly at least four weeks, five weeks out that we're still able to meet generally in person as opposed to via Zoom. But as it stands now, further discussion on the March 11th meeting in Stewart, I think everybody looks forward to not only meeting in person but meeting at Stewart.

**b) June 2022 in Carson City (date is TBD) (for possible action)**

Stoldal: Let's move on to 6b which is the June 2022 meeting in Carson City. Is there a date that would be helpful to everybody regarding school or other events that take place in June for next year?

Freedman: Those Fridays in June are the 3rd, the 10th, the 17th and the 24th.

Stoldal: Is there a budget concern?

Freedman: The finance committee will meet in May and we like to have a few weeks to revise the budget based on that meeting. So, probably later in the month is preferable.

Stoldal: What about the 17th of June, is a Friday.

Petersen: I got something going that day.

Stoldal: We usually meet on Fridays but we can also meet on Thursdays or, certainly, any day of the week. Myron, is there any downside to other days of the week?

Freedman: Not from our perspective.

Stoldal: Let's look at Friday the 24th. Anybody have a challenge with that day?

Dwyer: I'm pushing for selfish reasons for the 24th, if that leaves enough time for the stay up with the under the fiscal year on the 30th but I'm going to be gone from the 9th until the 19th, so I wouldn't be able to attend. Well, if it was Zoom, I might be able to attend.

Stoldal: Let's look at the 24th. Is there any downside to the 24th, any real good upside? Myron?

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- Freedman: I recall the ASO needs time to get the budgets open and they try to do that as close to July 1 as possible. So, the middle of the month works best.
- Stoldal: Doris, with this budget meeting, is the 19th possible via Zoom for you on that day?
- Dwyer: If it's Zoom, probably, yes.
- Stoldal: It would be probably a couple of hours in the morning.
- Dwyer: I'd be in Canada but I guess that would work.
- Stoldal: Unless you're in Quebec, then you have to do it in French.
- Dwyer: I have to check that.
- Stoldal: We look for a motion for here in the 19th?
- Unknown: The 19th I believe is a Sunday by the way.
- Freedman: I think you're thinking of the finance meeting in May.
- Stoldal: How about June the 17th, Friday? If we can get a motion for that day? Anthony?
- Timmons: I'd like to make a motion that our June 2022 meeting in Carson City be held on Friday, June 17.
- Stoldal: Do we have a second?
- Markoff: I'll second it.
- Stoldal: We have a motion, we have a second. Further discussion of the board?
- Dwyer: Will there be a Zoom hook up?
- Stoldal: Yes. It's a budget meeting and so that is a Zoom meeting on the 17th of June. We have a motion, we have a second. Further discussion? Anthony?
- Timmons: Will it be a hybrid meeting, will we have some people in person, some people in Zoom or will it be completely Zoom?
- Freedman: We need to move in that direction, Anthony. There are some hoops we have to jump through in terms of equipment and microphones, things like

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that. So, if this is the meeting in Carson City, I can move in that direction to try to get that secured for hybrid types of meetings.

Stoldal: So, the answer would be yes, Anthony. Alright, we have a motion, we have a second. Additional discussion? General public? Seeing and hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the Chair voting in favor. Thank you.

**c) August/September 2022 in Ely (date is TBD.) (for possible action)**

Stoldal: Let's move on then to item 6c as a possible August, September 2022 date in Ely. I think we first should look at the calendar and let's pick a date. From staff's point of view because it does create some additional time with travel, is there a particular date in August that the staff has a challenge with?

Freedman: At this time, I don't see any problem.

Stoldal: How about for the board? They would like to be a two-day meeting like the August 4th and 5th, 11th and 12th. Any board member have challenges with days in August? I'll arbitrarily pick the Thursday and Friday, the 11th and 12th of August as potential days. Discussion on that?

Freedman: I'm sorry, I thought you were looking at September. So, we're talking about August, that's just two months later from the June meeting at this point.

Stoldal: Let's then look at September, we could do September the 4th and 5th or the 1st and 2nd of September? It's right before the Labor Day week or Labor Day weekend. Is that an issue?

Petersen: The White Pine County Fair is usually the middle of August and I'm trying to find it. I don't know if they set an exact date but usually it would be like the 20 and 21st.

Stoldal: Are you suggesting we meet at the same time or avoid that point?

Petersen: I would avoid it.

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Stoldal: Let's look at the first week, Thursday and Friday. The first Thursday and Friday, September 1st and 2nd.

Petersen: That's the Labor Day weekend.

Stoldal: Then let's look at the 8th and 9th of September. Any downside, upside?

Ward: And my input should have no input really on meetings because we'll always have a Deputy Attorney General to represent you guys. I do have meetings every second Friday of the month with one of my other boards. Tomorrow I'm getting someone to cover for me. Likewise, because I would prefer to cover a two-day meeting as to pass off a one-day meeting or something of that nature. But just to let you know, I may not be there or we may have another DAG or I will be there and I will have my other board covered by another DAG but my input should not be an input in regards to when you guys have the meeting, just an FYI.

Stoldal: I appreciate that but I think it's important we have consistency. I know all of you AGs are qualified but I would prefer, for me, that we have you there. Is there any challenge with the 15th and the 16th of September?

Ward: If you do have it for the 8th and 9th, I can be there and I will just punt the other meeting to another attorney like I'm doing tomorrow. That's what I would suggest.

Stoldal: Let's look at September the 8th and 9th then, that's Thursday and Friday. Anybody have a challenge with that? If they don't, look for a motion to those two days for our meeting. Again, there's a travel day, would be before and a travel day likely afterward because we would certainly want to get a good sense of the facility at Ely, both the pre-con [ph] and the depot. Two important parts of the state system that the state has invested lots of money and upkeep and maintenance and restoration in the pre-con [ph] and the depot. So, I think it's important that we get a good sense of that, so Tony?

Timmons: I just want to kick it out to Sean to make sure that it works with his schedule as well and his team.

Pitts: Mr. Chairman, we welcome you any time. September is a good month in answer to Jan Petersen's question, the fair and a crowded weekend in White Pine County is the third week in August. September meeting will work well for us.

Stoldal: We'll look at the 8th and 9th. We'd look for a motion then? Sarah?

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Petersen: I just called Ely and it's the 19th, 20th and 21st of August is their fair.

Cowie: I just wanted to put it out there, I don't know my teaching schedule yet for that semester. So, hopefully I can be there but I just want to say I can't guarantee that I can be there.

Stoldal: Maybe at that time we will be able to have a hybrid and you would be able to attend at least one of them. So, we're looking for the September 8th and the 9th, look for a motion? Doris?

Dwyer: I move that the quarterly meeting of the Museum board be held in Ely, Nevada on September 8th and 9th, 2022.

Stoldal: Do we have a second? Jan Petersen seconds that motion. Further discussion of the board? General public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the Chair voting in favor.

**d) December 2022 in southern Nevada (place and date are TBD). (for possible action)**

Stoldal: Let's move on then to item 6d, the December meeting in southern Nevada. The place, date is to be announced. Looking around, I can see that there's other people that are on other boards and commissions, nonprofits and everybody seems to want to squeeze a last meeting of the year into this week. So, maybe if we can make it the first week in December, to kind of spread these things out. It would, again, be a two-day meeting and I would suggest that we meet in Boulder City. There's lots of opportunities in Lost City that we should see as well as the facility in Las Vegas but it's been a while since we've been in Boulder City and there's some wonderful things that are taking place in Boulder City. And we will certainly by that time have a new Director, at least hopefully. Anthony?

Timmons: Do we have an issue of heat in that facility in December?

Stoldal: I think it was one meeting that we were wearing a jacket.

Freedman: I can't remember what time of year that was. Dan may have more insight into this.

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- Thielen: What was the question? I just had to step out for a minute.
- Stoldal: What will the weather be like the first week in December of 2022 in Boulder City? Is it going to be warm enough for us to be in the maintenance area?
- Thielen: I've seen it snowed there at that time and I've seen it beautiful. Take your pick, bring a jacket, you can always take it off.
- Stoldal: We can always meet in one of the railcars. I don't think we ever had a moving meeting like that. I'm not even sure that's allowed. The general question is we're not sure what the weather is going to be like. It could be snow, it could be sunny, bring a jacket. We should be able to handle that meeting and maybe reduce the 6-foot separation to a lot closer.
- Freedman: Remind me, Dan, about connectivity in that facility. If we're going to plan a hybrid meeting, are we going to have issues with doing Zoom out of that? I remember Randy was always on his phone.
- Thielen: We absolutely are. If we are going to have a hybrid meeting, it's not going to be possible. Neither of our facilities have cutting edge IT.
- Stoldal: Well, I'm not looking about cutting edge with the IT.
- Thielen: There's some buckets of data laying around that we can use but it's pretty poor. The good news is we're working resolution up here finally and then we'll keep working it down there.
- Stoldal: What I suggest to the board is that we do in fact meet in Boulder City on that Thursday and Friday in December. We got a whole year. As Harry pointed out, it's 2022 and if things improve or go the wrong way, we have plenty of opportunities to move into either potentially another site in Boulder City that we would still be able to tour the railroad facility and still meet in Boulder City or we could meet back in Las Vegas. So, my recommendation is let's meet in Boulder City that first week in December, Thursday and Friday. And if we have to adjust that schedule, we will. Thoughts? If that's alright, we'd look for a motion. Jan?
- Petersen: Mr. Chair, I move that we meet December -- is it one or two-day meeting?
- Stoldal: Two-day meeting.
- Petersen: December 1st and 2nd in Boulder City first and it's an alternate in Las Vegas in 2022.

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Stoldal: Do we have a second? Doris Dwyer, second. Further discussion of the board? General public? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the Chair voting in favor. Thank you all.

**7. AGENCY REPORTS (Information and discussion only unless otherwise noted)**  
**a) Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs – Brenda Scolari, Director**

Stoldal: Let's move on then to agency report. There are several action items; however, there are also simple reports, the information and discussion for most of these items, otherwise they will be noted as action items. The first one is the Director's report from the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, the Director, Brenda Scolari. And in Brenda's place?

Kawchack: For the record I'm Emmy Kawchack, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. I'm here to give a brief update of the last quarter activities for the division of tourism that might be of greater interest to the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. I will also note that materials from our December 2nd commission meeting are available for review including a full quarterly update, if you're interested in viewing those. So overall, we had a really busy quarter and a half, quarter and three quarters. In August, the division of tourism welcomed Mikalee Byerman, Chief Marketing Officer and Anton Eckert, our Chief Industry Development Officer to the team. They bring with them a breadth of strategic marketing and tourism industry experience and we're so glad to have their leadership and expertise and bring them on to travel [ph] Nevada. Some of our key activities in Q1 include the hosting of IPW which is U.S. Travel's largest international trade show and that was hosted in Las Vegas this year. So, we were happy to have that conference of that size back and of course in Nevada, so we were happy to host that. We also met with 158-tour operators, wholesalers, receptives, airlines, media and marketing partners over that time. And we shared space with Reno-Tahoe, the city of Henderson and Reno-Tahoe or -- and Elko. So, we're also continuing to meet and exceed benchmarks on travelnevada.com this year through our optimization user experience re-assignments [ph]. We came back online with a larger domestic presence in the last two quarters. So, we look forward to improving our reception in our new and emerging markets. We've also seen more travel from journalist and influencers which is very encouraging. This coverage included subjects like dark [ph] skies, road trips and I'll also mentioned that there is a greater interest ad people are coming back, particularly on the journalist side in those

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immersive experiences where audiences are looking to better understand the little towns [ph] that they're visiting. And that's a great tie-in for our cultural offerings and our state museum offerings. Now as part of our discovery on Nevada program which I hope you all have seen, we recently launched our second Annual Nevada Pride Shopping Guide. That was in a lot of the Thanksgiving issues in the north and the south. We had partnerships with them. We're encouraging Nevadans to give the gift to Nevada. So, included in those gift recommendations for things like minted medallions, gift shop ideas and of course state museum membership. We're suggesting also giving the gift of Nevada through downloadable gift certificate. So, we're calling those more magical [ph] experiences, so people can give the gift of an experience in Nevada for future use. Currently, we're working with the ad [ph] agency on recommendations for an overarching communication plan with museums and that's going to include best [ph] ways to better streamline our messaging and develop better engagement on social and other channels. We continue to place monthly ads in local newspapers that outlined upcoming activities on our state museums. And as we implement these strategies, we hope we can increase our presence. So, now I'm going to share my screen to go over some of our financials, if that works. Are you seeing the tourism development fund? We're going to take a look at the lodge and tax account year-to-date spending. This shows a lodging tax income of about \$6.4 million. Spending today is just a little over 4 million and that (inaudible) first to the DTC agencies, particularly for the museums, it's 1.7 million to date. So, we're just a little over 40% at the time of this budget account summary which was at the end of November. Additionally, I wanted to take a look at our current projections. Our research manager file [ph] takes a close look at trends and other agency forecast as well as other indicators to come up with this. And we have been pretty encouraged by the numbers that we saw but we're going forward with our mid-level scenario which is assuming that COVID-19 case levels, they fluctuate through the year, but even though travelers might have slight concerns over the risk of contracting the virus, they're feeling relatively confident that they can travel safely. It also assumes our continued gradual upward trajectory in travel demand and confidence with demand reaching pre-pandemic levels by the end of fiscal year '23. We've also seen ADR continue to climb and so we're projecting us to remain higher than the pre-pandemic levels, at least through the remainder of fiscal year '22. Therefore, our room tax collections are higher than originally projected. We're about in line with our room demand. This is all very positive news but we're going to continue to monitor that closely. So right now, we're projecting to end the year at just over 25 million which is a lot better than we had originally thought we would. So, that's all positive. Also, we've been awarded federal funding for tourism and outdoor recreation activities, in particular this award includes funding for LBCDA

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and RBCA [ph] and about a million dollars for Division of Tourism Destination Marketing and \$760,000 for rural market and grants. Additionally, there are funds awarded for economic development which will go towards the destination development program, trail system infrastructure, asset mapping, recreational planning and a potential mobile app. We're also looking at these adventure centers. This concept will allow visitors to further explore recreational opportunities in our rural destinations. Currently, we're looking at Boulder City at Carson City for those adventure centers, so that would be really exciting. Finally, many of you are aware that we refined to the business model for Nevada Magazine. Like a lot of publications, there had been struggles over the past couple of years, even changing the model to an online one but we are looking at combining the pieces, combining it with the visitor's guide. So, it's going to continue to be produced quarterly. It will not be provided for free to subscribers and also for anyone who wants to order just like our visitor's guide. It allows for a larger audience and also gives potential visitors a look at seasonal offerings throughout the state. So, that now they see us four times a year instead of just one, we're really excited to launch this. It will be coming out at the end of January with the spring issue and we're looking forward to the opportunity to be able to share more robust content with our larger audience. That's all I have for my update but I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

Stoldal: Thank you very much. I was wondering whether or not you can still screen share this particular document. I think it would be helpful for the board to understand. Museums are financed at least three-way, one of it is the general fund, then the private budget and then secondly through the room tax. And then as you can see, this is the most recent report as of November 23rd and it's presented at each of the quarterly meetings of NCOT [ph]. And I think it would be helpful for the board to see how the money is distributed through the Nevada Division of Travel and Cultural Affairs. It really two-distinct areas and one of them is the one you see in the brown that is funded separate from tribal and that's the breakdown. And Myron, how are those numbers determined, is that through the general budget process and then X number comes to a room tax and a portion of that goes to Lost City, the Railroad Museum, et cetera?

Freedman: I think I would need more time to answer that question properly, Bob. And in past years, the ASO is working with the base budget amounts, so I know that we start with the base budgets and then we looked at enhancements but I would like a little more time to get the proper answer for that.

Stoldal: You think it's reached nearly-with this private fund budget had some knowledge of the budgeting process but the COVID really impacted.

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That's where the biggest impact came with having the prepositions, lay off people that came through the reduction in the room tax, I think it's important for the board to understand that this this is part of the process. So, actually (inaudible), if this is possible maybe, Myron or Michelle, we could send you send a hard copy of this to e-mail to the board members. So, at least we'll be able to ask them some questions about it.

Freedman: Emmy if you send that to me, I'll distribute it.

Kawchack: Yes, I can send that to you right now. Thank you, Myron.

Stoldal: Any other questions? Hearing none, thank you very much, really appreciate the details and the input and all the work on the rural funding. That's a great project and impacts a lot of historical sites within the state of Nevada. So, another great work in that department.

**b) State Historic Preservation Office – Rebecca Palmer, Administrator  
Nominations to the national and state registers of historic places + (for possible Action)**

Stoldal: Let's move on then to 7, agency report, 7b, the Nevada Historic Preservation Office, Rebecca Palmer?

Brown: Good morning. This is Kristen Brown of the State Historic Preservation Office. Rebecca Palmer sends her regrets. She's currently presenting at the Mining Association's Annual Meeting in Sparks. We do not have any agency updates for you today. However, you do have a copy of the staff report regarding the National Register and State Registrar Program. It's in your packet and as you note on the agenda, we do have two national register nominations for review today.

Stoldal: Any questions, first of all, before we get to the two nominations? There is some additional information there. Nominations that are pending, both on the national and state register and the federal nominations. And as we know by our title, we're the Nevada Board of Museum and History and this is the part of that history responsibility. Any questions, comments? Seeing none.

**1. State Register of Historic Places - None**

**2. National Register of Historic Places (for possible action)**

**a. Las Vegas High School Historic District, Las Vegas, Clark County.**

Stoldal: Let's move on then to the 7b 2a.

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Brown: The first nomination for your review today is the Las Vegas High School Historic District in Las Vegas. And you do have the summary in your packet. Would you like me to read it or has everyone already had a chance to read that?

Stoldal: I think we read it and we likely have read the nomination as well. A really detailed and very solid nomination. To me, these nominations are more than just nominations to the National Register. These become almost primary resource material for the history of our state and our city. This is our first stop, so it's important that they're accurate and detail and this one is really solid. Not that the other ones aren't but this one is. Any questions, any comments? Otherwise, we'd look for a motion.

Markoff: I move that you accept it.

Stoldal: Motion to approve item 7b 2a, the Las Vegas High School Historic District expansion nomination. It was approved earlier this week by the city of Las Vegas and signed by the mayor. And we will take it from there, we'll go to the keeper. Do we have a second?

Schmitter: I second.

Cowie: I just had a quick comment. It's a great nomination. It's really wonderful to see all the work that went into it and everybody did an excellent job. I really enjoyed reading the history. I did have one small comment and I just e-mailed that to Rebecca. It's in the background section on the section on educating indigenous children and I just suggested adding a word or a phrase to indicate that indigenous children were already being educated by their communities and their elders. So, just inserting the word western education or something like that would help just clarify that point that children are already receiving an education. They were just looking to get different sort of education but other than that, I don't have any comments on the nomination. I think it's fantastic.

Stoldal: And I think we can include that as part of the administrative changes and that to move it for [ph]. We have a motion, we have seconds. Further discussion? General public? All those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the Chair voting in favor.

**b. St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral Complex, Reno, Washoe County.**

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- Stoldal: Let's move on to item 7b 2b, St. Thomas.
- Brown: The St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral Complex is in downtown Reno and is being nominated as a building, the cathedral and it's two associated contributing buildings as well which you also received a copy of this nomination last month and I welcome any questions or comments.
- Stoldal: Questions or comments from the board?
- Cowie: I'll just say again how much I enjoyed reading this nomination, such great work and so fascinating, the history behind it and (inaudible). I try to pass the Cathedral every day when I go to work and I want (inaudible). Any good to (inaudible) something for everybody.
- Stoldal: Sarah, thank you very much for those comments. Look for motion to approve. Sarah?
- Cowie: I move to approve.
- Stoldal: Do we have a second? Jan? We have a second. Further discussion of the board? General public? We have a motion and we have a second to approve. All those in favor say aye.
- Group: Aye.
- Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the Chair voting in favor. Thank you very much and we look forward to the other nominations that are listed there. And if any board member has a question, some of these things will not actually come before the board including on page 3 of the report which includes the federal nominations. However, those are important and are available now or when they become in final draft form. If you want to read them, you can ask (inaudible) for copies and when they're finally posted, they will become public when they're approved. Kristen, anything else that you want to add?
- Brown: No. Thank you so much everyone and I look forward to the next meeting.

**c) Division of Museums and History – Myron Freedman, Administrator**  
**1. Hiring and Operations Update**

- Stoldal: Let's move on to 7c which is the Division of Museums and History. Myron, it's all yours.

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Freedman: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to do a brief report today. The operations at the museums remained largely unchanged and then you have the museum reports in your packet and then a little bit, you'll be able to talk with some of the directors about their activities. But I do want to report on the hiring, that's been a huge effort going on since the beginning of the Fiscal Year. It's really at a kind of a breakneck speed right now and so there's a lot of people coming onboard and then people in the queue and then documents going out for approvals to continue filling positions. But here's a brief update, in Las Vegas the curator of manuscripts has been hired, will start in January. Maggie Buchawsky [ph] and presently Hollis is recruiting for a maintenance worker and also unfortunately we recently lost the facility supervisor at that museum but those documents are in place and are being processed for recruiting a new one. In Carson City, at the State Museum, in September our facility supervisor position was filled by, you know, interior fill as it were which opened up a security officer position. But the facility supervisor was filled by Albert Depew [ph] and then the membership manager which is a board-funded position, part-time position has been filled by Kelly Brandt [ph] and then presently we're recruiting for that open security officer and also for the museum director. That is currently being recruited and we are advertising nationally for candidates. In Reno at the Historical Society, at long last, Catherine [ph] has successfully hired a librarian, Sara Patton [ph]. She'll start in January, very excited about that and we are recruiting for a registrar, curator 2 position. I'm reviewing with the ASO the budget impact on that. We should be fine but I just want to make sure we're clear on that but those documents are ready to go. In Ely, we're not adding any staff officially but Sean has a temporary custodial worker out there to help with keeping up with the custodial needs at that site. And then at the Railroad Museum in Carson City, we have new buildings and ground supervisor. His name is Jayvee Thompson [ph] and we are once again looking for a custodian out there. This will be the third time that we've announced this position. We often get candidates and then we lose them right at the end there. So that's a real challenge and I'm sure Dan can speak to that. And then Dan is working on recruiting a new museum store manager, again a board-funded position and that recruitment is with HR right now. And down at Boulder City, we have a new maintenance specialist, David Judson [ph] and we have a new museum director, I'm pleased to announce, this is all very late-breaking news, Christopher McMann [ph] will start in January as the new museum director down there. And if Dan is on the line, maybe you can provide a little background on Christopher for the board, Dan.

Thielen: Chris McMann [ph] is a Ph.D., another candidate, he actually has a Ph.D. in public history but he's also got a long background in railroading, especially tourist railroads and museums, in particular here. He was a Carson High grad and he came to museum and volunteered here for a

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number of years. So, at a very young age and went on to get degrees in history and now a Ph.D. He's currently working out in New Mexico in museum system out there. He just come back to railroading where he wants to be. So, this is a great catch for us, a great find. He speaks our language, he's a Nevadan and that's always a good thing.

Stoldal: Myron maybe this is a question for you. It's been the tradition for the last few decades that a member of the board is part of the interview process for museum directors. Are we continuing that process?

Freedman: I did not understand that as a tradition but we did include Dan Markoff on that interview team. He was extremely helpful and we really appreciate his time and service.

Stoldal: One way to say it but it's been a tradition going back to the days of Governor Brian but it's not an agenda item nor is it an official policy. It's just been a member of the board at that level. Well, that's wonderful news. And that person starts when?

Freedman: January 3.

Stoldal: There's a lot of opportunities in Boulder City.

Freedman: Continuing my report, Chair, with your indulgence, here at the division office, we hired, of course, our new administrative assistant, Megan Austin, who you met at the last meeting and Debbie Rabe has been promoted to administrative assistant for and then Carrie Edlefsen resigned in November. We are currently recruiting to replace Carrie and that's been approved and is actually in HR now and we should be getting candidates in the next few weeks. And that's my update for the museum hiring. I just wanted to give you a brief update on the conservation bond.

Stoldal: Myron before you do that, could you give us a sense of where you feel we are in pre-COVID days as far as across the systems before staffing, are we three quarters away back, halfway back, 25% back? I'm not asking for a specific number, what's your sense of where we are?

Freedman: I think we're closing in on three quarters, somewhere in there, not quite that strong at the moment but yes, it's better than 50% for sure.

Stoldal: Are you feeling that you're getting heard at the offices that approve these things? You're getting a sense that they understand the challenges we're facing?

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Freedman: If you're speaking about the support we're getting, yes. The budgets were approved but it's still incumbent upon our ASO and budget people to make sure that everything is going to balance out. We have to take it a little bit slow and we're determining whether or not to go through with some of these and we check first. We get approvals first, all the way up through the Director of DTCA. And then of course, there's the hiring process itself and all the directors know that had been trying to hire how difficult it's been, mainly because it seems that the HR department has sort of been hollowed out and there's only a handful of staff there and they're wonderful staff. They work really hard, they're very knowledgeable but there aren't a lot of them and so each of them gets a job here to help us with the recruitment. And it can take a while to get all the paperwork done and get everything posted and then all of that. Plus, they established a new system called success factors and that has some hiccups as well. The fact that it's moving forward as well as it is, I'm pretty pleased.

Stoldal: I appreciate the background. I think it helps keep the board an understanding of why we just can't flip the switch and hire people, even those that had been approved. So, thank you for (inaudible). Myron, back to you.

## **2. Conservation Bond sale update**

Freedman: I was going to update the board on the conservation bond. We spoke of this at the last meeting and just it's good news. The sale of the bonds did take place and the funding for our projects are now with conservation. I'd been with conservation since the 7th of December because they had to be transferred from the Treasurer's Office. There's a process of two pieces of paperwork that have to be approved. These are called work programs and so on our end, we've gotten our work program together and DCNR now has to get their work program together and these work programs then go to the IFC. We are currently calendared for the February IFC for their approval of these work programs to transfer the funds to our account. And then I'm assured by conservation, they will have their work program done in time to also be on that same agenda, so that's good news. And then in the meantime, we've been working with public works on an inter-agency agreement to handle the work and if you recall, we're talking about two projects. One is the continued restoration, not so much restoration but the upgrades to the freight building in Ely. It can be used year-round as an event center and to hold exhibits and artifacts and that sort of thing. And then the other project is the expansion of the railroad museum in Boulder which includes a visitor/museum facility. Those are the two projects. It's a total of \$3 million in the bond funding that we'll be receiving. We got a million going towards Ely, 2 million going towards Boulder City. And then, we have an agency agreement that's been completely drafted with public

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works to manage these projects. The thing we're waiting for is this IFC approval, so we can then put the authority for spending the money and attach that to these agreements. That's where we are with those projects. Any questions on that?

Schmitter: I have a question. Maybe all the other board members have seen it. I understand that there's a pretty nice design for this facility in Boulder City. Will that be distributed to the board?

Freedman: That is available. This project has been around for a while, Michelle, so I think a lot of them have seen it but let me resend it out, so you can see it all over again. It shouldn't be a problem to get you the renderings.

Stoldal: And I would suggest that this next step, the money that's been approved is going to adjust the existing layout, potentially the initial one was X number of dollars were allocated for the design project. And as it went forward, those dollars were cut back and so the things that went into the design, things like the museum parks of that structure were ratcheted down. Now it's an opportunity to relook at how we use the interior, the space for the store, the space for the museum. I'm pushing a little more of the M-word and a little bit less of the visitor center concept. I mean yes, it is a museum but we don't have a museum. Our artifacts at the Boulder City facility are in a container that's parked out there. We need to have a real museum to tell the story of the railroad in southern Nevada. So, this is really a wonderful opportunity for the money that Myron has gotten and is overseeing for Boulder City. So, yes, there's an existing report. That should give us a good foundation but more work is going to be done.

Freedman: Let me just remind everybody of where we are in both those processes and that is in the construction drawing phase. This money will go towards completing the construction drawing, and there's two other aspects where we will address as we could do that. One is as Bob is alluding to is the interpretive planning for in the interior of museum/visitor center, and the other one is a plan for the retail program that goes on inside there. You'll have input into that and then at the end of the contract, we will have construction drawing, so that the next bond sale, we're asking for the construction dollars themselves. We want to be shovel ready for the next sale of the bonds.

Markoff: Is the design for the exterior the same as the drawings that we got a while back?

Freedman: This question comes up fairly constantly. For your information the design is settled. It was settled before I took over. It's been settled and a lot of money went into the design itself, a lot of planning, a lot of input. I made

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the decision not to open that up because it would be cutting into the precious dollars we're getting to get the project done and have the construction drawings ready, so we can get on with the construction. The design is settled but the opportunity lies as Bob was talking to and looking at the interpretive experience inside the building. There will be interior, physical design that has to go on as a result of that and so that's the opportunity for this board, for members of the public down in southern Nevada and other interested stakeholders to have some input into that.

Markoff: What I was curious about was the original design for the facility had sort of an Art Deco look to it, like the old railroad station down on main street. I thought that was kind of neat but this current design doesn't seem to fit any period, maybe contemporary, I guess. It doesn't reflect the Spanish architecture of the old stations along the route. It's just sort of a modern design.

Freedman: I would like to suggest at the next meeting, because again this comes up quite a bit, is we invite the architect to sit in on the meeting and then he can speak a little bit, make a brief presentation on how they arrive at the design. It is connected to elements, historic elements in the community, particularly Hoover Dam, but the process of creating the required space led to that design. And as I said, that was something that had already been accomplished. I did not want to spend more money on that. I thought it was important to get on to the finishing the construction drawings.

Stoldal: I think that the issue is in this case the form of that building is following the interior function and it was really an idea that we got that space. Certainly for me, it was Symphony Park, some of the buildings that are there, they're wonderfully interesting architecturally from the outside but from the inside, it's a real challenge. I'm not saying we shouldn't have something that fits in within that area but there was a real effort to maximize the interior usage and have a building that in fact (inaudible). But I think, Myron, you're right, maybe you should reschedule a time to when we can bring this board up to date when the conservation bond money reality is a little bit closer to us. Within the process that has not been completed, we're the exception of the exterior look. Is that a fair assumption?

Freedman: Yes, thank you.

Stoldal: Dan, are you okay with we have another meeting where we can get really into details?

Markoff: I'm fine with that.

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Stoldal: Myron, back to you. It's item C3.

**3. Private Funds Budget Adjustments, BMH – BA 5033 + (for possible action.)**

Freedman: I noticed Carrie joined us which is kind of her to take time out of her current position and come back to our department. Carrie, we're on the item where we're asking the board to approve the private funds budget adjustment and this is an adjustment to the donation account. Since you put that together, do you want to speak to that a little bit?

Edlefsen: This was a request by Chair Stoldal to allow donations to go into the board private budget account to help support some of the operational cost of the board. I'm not sure if there's really any other explanation needed for this. I know that there are some board members I would prefer not to use their stipend, I guess if you could call it that, for being on the board and would request to return it. And this is the avenue to do that and support the board expenses.

Stoldal: It just creates a process for us to, or I guess anybody, to make a donation per se. Nothing really more than that other than it says this allow us to shift, if we feel like that our stipend (inaudible) with the exception of lunch money. Any further questions or comments? Otherwise, we'll look for motion to approve.

Schmitter: I do have a question on that. I'm new so I am not up to date on all this but we received a check and then we would deposit it and then we would send a check to go back to this fund or we would just say we don't need a stipend. How are we envisioning this playing out?

Edlefsen: The process for this is technically as board members you are somewhat a state employee. It is required that you guys are paid for your time, serve on the board which is \$80 a day for every time there's a board meeting. That process happens, you get paid for it. We can't really not pay you, it's like having employee. It's difficult to explain it without getting too far into the weeds. But it has been known that some of the board members would rather not receive this payment and even though you receive the payment, you do have the ability to send it back. If you feel on the other hand that you just want to donate to the budget account to the board to support the board expenses, you can just, like anybody else sends a donation in, sending the donation and it would go up as a revenue into the board's operating account to further support the expenses. What this particular budget adjustment does is it creates the avenue to allow those donations as a revenue to be placed into that budget account for the purpose of

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supporting the operating expenses. Michelle, does that answer your question?

Schmitter: Yes. Thanks. Carrie.

Markoff: Couldn't we have done that anyhow?

Edlefsen: You could send a check in but the way that the state's accounting system goes, every revenue has a particular spot it has to go in. And if this particular revenue was not built originally in the budget, we really would have no place to put it within that particular budget, so it would support the purpose of its need [ph].

Markoff: What about giving it back to the board?

Edlefsen: That's what is happening here.

Markoff: No, I mean with a designation, they'll be spent for a particular purpose.

Edlefsen: That would be restrictive donation. When you guys review the budgets, you'll see that there are several different revenue sources. In many of the museum budgets, they have the ability to accept because they're built into the budget, they have the ability to accept regular donations that have no intent or purpose and they have the ability to accept restricted donations which are specific to a purpose. The board operating budget and the administration operating budget don't generally accept donations. This is a different thing. Those revenue sources were not built into the budget to be able to accept us. That's what this budget change is for.

Stoldal: Then one of the things that was enlightening, or more of an eye opener, the private funds pay the board members.

Edlefsen: That is correct.

Stoldal: Unlike most state boards, that money comes out of the general fund. Are the state museum board, our salary so to speak and our expenses, comes out of this private fund budget and you look at other boards around the state system, it comes out of the general fund.

Edlefsen: If I could just make one small correction, Bob. The salaries that are paid to the board are covered through general fund. Those come out of the executive budget, those two that come out of the private funds. What the private fund support are the operating cost.

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- Stoldal: Which is, to me, maybe ludicrous is too strong a word but that money for operating the state board, that should stay within the museums to help the museum. The state should be paying the salary they have [ph] but to operate this. But this is just an easy way, not really competition, to make it easier for us to send in the money. Doris, you got a thought?
- Dwyer: This may have already been answered, Carrie, when you were responding to Michelle but there's no way for us to like just not accept it and not get the W-2 or whatever we get from the government?
- Edlefsen: That is correct.
- Dwyer: Is there a way to avoid getting that?
- Edlefsen: That is correct. You're technically an employee of the state, so it's required that the division pay you guys for your services on the board.
- Stoldal: But Doris, don't expect any retirement fund.
- Dwyer: Yeah exactly.
- Timmons: Carrie, I just wanted to clarify. It looks like no money is actually being transferred. It looks like the budget authority is being adjusted. Is that the only adjustment or are funds actually being transferred here?
- Edlefsen: There are no funds being transferred. What we're doing is just creating authority, so that funds can be deposited, should they be donated.
- Stoldal: I'd like for a motion to approve.
- Markoff: One final question, it's all optional?
- Stoldal: Yes.
- Timmons: I'd like to make a motion to approve this item as presented.
- Stoldal: Do we have a second?
- Markoff: Second.
- Stoldal: We have a motion, we have a second for item 7c 3. Further discussion? Doris?
- Dwyer: I don't really see any downside with this, so I'm going to approve it.

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Stoldal: (Inaudible). General public? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with the Chair voting in favor with those present.

**4. Semi-Annual IFC Report and Memo + (for possible action.)**

Stoldal: Myron, back to you for item 7c 4.

Freedman: This last item is pretty straightforward. And if Carrie is on the line, she may have some additional thoughts, if you need more background on this but this is a semi-annual report we have to make on the trust fund budgets to the IFC and she's supplied [ph] them a memo of the report. And if you read through it, we're asking for your approval.

Stoldal: Any questions with the board? This is something that this board requested that we get a presentation on and we have the details that are here but also straightforward. Any thoughts, comments, if not we'd look for a motion to approve. Carrie, can I make the motion? I'd like to make a motion to approve the IFC report. Look for a second.

Timmons: Second.

Stoldal: We have a motion, we have a second. Further discussion with the board? Input from the general public? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with the Chair voting with those in attendance.

Ward: And just so the record reflects, there's nothing under the open meeting law that would prevent a chairperson to make a motion or anything of that nature.

Stoldal: Thank you. I just tend to refrain from doing that. Alright, Myron, were you wrapped up because if you are, we'll take a 10-minute break.

Freedman: Yes, sir.

Stoldal: Let's take a break until 10:45. Please stop the recording.

**8. MUSEUM REPORTS; JULY - SEPT, SFY 2021 (Information and discussion only unless otherwise noted)**

Stoldal: We'll go back to order with the Nevada State Board of Museum and History for December the 9th. We are at item 8 on the agenda, museum reports, July through September 2021.

**a. Nevada Historical Society, Reno +**

Stoldal: 8a is the Nevada Historical Society's report is before you. Just a question for the board, although the landscape printing is a bit larger to read, does the board care whether the reports are printed in landscape or portrait? Did anybody care? Myron?

Freedman: Yeah, I care. The change was made for the purpose of these tables that are in there and so I think to turn it the other way might really complicate that formatting.

Stoldal: Myron, weren't they portraits to begin with?

Freedman: If Carrie is still on the line, Carrie made the change. She has updated these formulas. I think it got a little quirky and so she went in and we did everything. So, they're working much more smoothly. I can't really speak in depth to how all of that works but we did talk about how this new format was going to make it easier, especially for someone coming in, taking over in that position. It was quite a learning curve we had with Mitch [ph] and this should make things go a little smoother going ahead.

Stoldal: I see, Myron. This is much easier for your staff as opposed to the board?

Freedman: Yes.

Edlefsen: I can speak to it a little bit, if you don't mind. The format of the reports which had been the same way since before I came to museums in 2012, the different upgrades and changes that had been occurring with Microsoft Office started creating a problem how the tables were embedded into the Word document. What was happening is, when these tables were embedded into the Word document, after they were updated, Microsoft Office was changing the, and this makes it a little technical, but it was changing the embedded object into a JPEG or a photo so it could no longer be updated. What that required when that happened was to completely delete the table, completely rebuild it, and re-insert it as an object. The way they are now, they are now built in Excel, which is how all of the tables are built. So, the format now creates a text box for the museum directors and program managers to provide the narratives they

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need to, but it eliminates the problem to have to rebuild the tables every time that Microsoft Office decides to change the Excel table into a photo basically. It does benefit the staff for the fact that it reduces the time to correct these by almost 75 percent. It takes a lot of time to rebuild the stuff.

Stoldal: It was just a change and I was wondering, which is permanent. Any other thoughts on the board? But it really is fine. It makes a lot of sense, save staff time and a little bit easier to read other, it's no larger. But the nice thing about the other way was more charts on one page and you could kind of compare and look, but this is fine. Let's move on unless there's some other thoughts. And Carrie, thank you very much. And with that, Catherine, I'm sure the board has read every detail, but is there anything you want to make sure the board is aware of?

Magee: I think the report speaks for itself. And just FYI, I really appreciate the new changes that Carrie made in the reporting and in the form. I think just basically, I do have some information that didn't technically fit into the report with our new archivist, librarian and internet. I think just the general museum activities bring your attention to all the work that Shery and I have been doing, about 25 percent staffing here. So, let's just say we're really excited to bring one more person on right now. Her name is Sarah Patton. And as Myron said, there's kind of a backlog in all of the hiring that we're so excited that Sarah hung in with us for the practically two months it took to hire her. So, I would just like to let you know, Sarah is from Stanford University and she's moving into Reno to take the posts that technically the position was the librarian three position, but she is an archivist and we're really excited to have her on our team. And then another bit of exciting news that I didn't put in this report because it didn't happen then, just so you know, we finally got fiber optic. We are running on current modern technology and it's very exciting.

Stoldal: Questions, comments? Carrie, while you're still with us, just as an FYI, maybe it's a printing issue, but pages 12, 13 and 14, the bottom of each page is the information is cut in half. So maybe we're seeing just the margin of issue. I don't know, it's just on my report. But in the board packet, the last line on page 12 is not readable and there's a little issue with 13 and 14. But to me, Catherine, you sort of jumped over the big announcement that is on page 15. Could you give us a little more information on that?

Magee: I don't know what page 15 is because ours aren't numbered.

Freedman: He's referring to the quarterly (inaudible).

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Magee: We have been working for years to work on the quarterly. We're working on going back to our combining it into one issue for the next year so it gives us time to be re envisioned and revitalized. We met with our editorial board. We have recommendations from them that I'm working on summarizing. And just so you know, what is really wonderful about this opportunity is they mentioned the Nevada magazine revamp at the beginning of this meeting. And I've been in discussions trying to find out if we can basically use their model that they are using for the Nevada magazine online, which has a website portal. You subscribe to it. You can view it online. And I've been looking into basically just copying that for the quarterly and that looks very, like a possibility for us. And even better, it potentially will be free. So, lots of puzzle pieces to put together, but I definitely will be getting that information to you when I have the puzzle pieces more in place.

Stoldal: A couple of thoughts. One is the (inaudible) not a new priority or prepared presentation, but there was some discussion at the public meeting held by the membership committee regarding the fees that are extracted from every museum as a membership out of the \$35, \$20 that's extracted for the quarterly. That, many years ago, was to be a temporary thing until the historical society could figure out a way to pay for its quarterly (inaudible) been continued year after year while we were going to hear a new plan, a new plan, a new plan and a new plan. And then we went through a period of having one quarterly, a year, which is not a quarterly and then a couple of quarterlies a year. And now we seem to be going back to another quarterly once a year. And I will say for the record, the Nevada magazine may be pleased and financially it has to be the way it goes, but it's becoming more of a visitor's guide than the Nevada magazine. And the Nevada magazine quarterly used to be to the must-read publications in the state of Nevada if you wanted to know what was going on throughout the rest of the state in the history. Now that's evaporating. That's disappearing. Yes, they're going to be articles in the Nevada magazine, but compare those articles today to some of the historical ones that are also on site, it's a different magazine. It's a visitor's magazine. It's an advertising magazine. So, I'm very sad to see that go in that sense. Happy to see that they're going to keep it alive and moving forward, but I'm also worried about the quarterly now we're going to take another year. We've been taking another year to come up with a plan where there's quarterly for a long time. I suspect that at the next membership public meeting that there will likely be a vote and then come back before the full museum board to reduce the amount of money that each museum has to kick in and make the quarterly subscription fees separate from the membership. And secondly, you're safe with that. The good news, it will be free. Nothing's free. Somebody has to pay for the creation of the quarterly. When is the next issue, by the way, the quarterly coming out?

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Magee: Sorry about confusion here, Bob. Not meaning the quarterly will be free, meaning that we can have a website portal that will be free. So, just to remind the board and everybody, I've been working and I've been proposing different models. Actually, I've asked to remove the quarterly from being a membership fee. I believe I started asking that in 2016, 2017. So, we could move it to a subscription benefit. I'm really excited that with examining our new membership fees, and things like that this is under discussion because I completely agree that the quarterly should not be paid for by other museums. And so, there's that. This is a great opportunity to move forward finally with the quarterly and the re- envisioning of it. I believe you asked when the final quarterly will come out and that will probably be in 2022, basically, because we don't have enough submissions to produce a fourth quarterly.

Stoldal: I thought the last issue of the year was going to be on the pandemic.

Magee: That is the third quarterly and that is on the pandemic and if you haven't received it, you should already. You should be getting it in the mail. Myron has it up. That's been sent out to where it's being sent. And number four is in process but currently we don't have enough submissions to basically create another issue.

Stoldal: Any question from the board? Otherwise, we will move on. Comments? Thoughts? Hearing and seeing none. Catherine, thank you very much.

**b. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City +**

Stoldal: Let's then move on to the items 8B, the reports, the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. This is just the report. There are two action items. Board, questions on the report itself? And I see you're online. How are the museum stores? What's your sense of how that's going?

Thielen: When we stopped paying for wages, the museum store is doing pretty good. The challenge with that is I am overstressing an already overstretched staff. I need a museum store manager. We put it up for bid for advertisement. Hopefully we'll get somebody good in there but I think I want to broaden that position out to both provide that service to Boulder City and to Ely as well if desired so that we have one purchasing person, one center and that it supports those other operations as we go forward.

Stoldal: Dan, only museums or CLV, the second chart, Roman numeral two museum store sale. I don't understand what the line is year to date, YTD across. What is that line?

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- Thielen: The second graph? Are you seeing erroneous numbers in there? We've got a calculation issue.
- Stoldal: We're just 34251, 34251 across the board.
- Thielen: I don't have those same numbers, but they're all the same numbers. You have 2300, 2300. Those numbers are calculated at the division office, but yeah, we've got some calculation errors.
- Stoldal: It just would be helpful. We're doing our own math. That is just to see where we are year to date compared the year before and the year before. For example, August, apparently was a great month. It was the best month.
- Thielen: It was going to show 496 in there, for mercy sake.
- Stoldal: We're showing in August of -- I'm sorry, what are we 2022?
- Thielen: There are some serious calculation issues in this. Good heavens. It's useless. Can I take a beating on it and have it corrected by the next board meeting?
- Edlefsen: Hi, this is Carrie. Can I interject? The numbers that go into those reports are based on the deposits made by the museums. We have to maintain the same data that is entered into the state's accounting system. How the museums track their revenues is separate than how the state tracks the revenue. So, if the museums do not make their deposits in a timely manner that it's going to reflect oddly in the month to month of the store sales. I would imagine that the large amount that came in for the museum in August and September may have been a result of their trip to Colorado with the sales that occurred there because there were a large amount of sales that occurred. But the only way to legitimately track it were if we were being audited as well. If they use the data that goes into the state, which is based on the dates of the deposits that are made.
- Stoldal: But the (inaudible), I mean, you're seeing the chart, Carrie, the year-to-date number that we have in our book is for July 15 A [ph] for August 28 3 [ph]. And then for the rest of the year, it's 34251 [ph] as the average year to date. It doesn't reflect what the numbers are above.
- Edlefsen: I don't see that the board reports were uploaded with a supporting document. I can't see specifically what you're looking for. If it's a calculation error I would apologize. I tried very hard to make sure that those were accurate before I left.

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- Stoldal: No, I do understand what the fiscal year 2022 that we are in July and it makes sense that the trip could very well have jacked that August number up to 12, which is I mean, it's either July or August where the numbers are there, but the numbers we have for July and August appear to be pretty good month for the store, whether it's a trip or whatever. Anthony?
- Timmons: I have a side question for Carrie that's connected, but not exactly on the same topic. Is there an issue with some of the museums turning in their funds making deposits on a timely basis because that's a major audit and control issue if that's the case?
- Edlefsen: Well, it's not only a major audit and control issue, it's a violation of NRS. There are only so many days that we are permitted to hang on to the deposits. There's a weekly requirement and a daily requirement based on the amount of the funds that come in. That was already an audit finding for us at one point back when LCB audited us in 2016 or '17. And that was supposed to be corrected. I would think though that with the staffing issues that have occurred lately, there may be some delays in that. At this point, I would refer to the DMH staff as they deal directly with the deposits that come in from the museum's and they get to see daily, the dates they were deposited and the dates are received for entry into the state system. I will say before we left there were several times that division staff were being contacted by the treasurer's office that deposits were made and the information was not being received for division staff to enter into the accounting system. It is appearing to be a procedural problem, but I believe that as staff come back on to be able to take care of these administrative tasks within the museums that this will probably be corrected.
- Thielen: I need to make it very clear that the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, if we have missed a deposit, it has been by 24 hours and we do not take that lightly. We do not violate the policies that are here and we don't let it slip. If we get overwhelmed on a Thursday, which is our typical deposit day, then on Friday, we'll make that deposit but we do not take this lightly.
- Stoldal: I think Anthony's question is right on target. Under NRS, it's museum stores that fall under board's responsibility and making sure that we are fiscally following the rules and regulations is critically important. And Dan, we're not going to sit here and micromanage, but if you know Thursday, there are going to be a problem then maybe the deposit needs to be made on Wednesday, but I mean, I'm going to let the directors work all those details on that. I laid [ph] out for the day before rather than the day after the deadline. I think that if there's a way to get this updated to the board

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rather than wait three months, Dan, if there's a way to get this. Myron, go ahead.

Freedman: I will make sure that we go through all of these and look for all of the errors and get them updated and we will resend them to the board.

Stoldal: Great. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. That's really helpful as we move forward the store committee as we look to go online, we want to make sure that we know the challenges that each director faces with the- the fiscal system as well as how the- the stores are being operated. Dan, is there anything else on here that you want to make sure that the board takes a look at as far as the report before we get into the action items?

Thielen: I'm going to try and share a screen. I want to just show you just 15 seconds of video. We went to Colorado with the locomotor Glenbrook and can you hear this? The locomotive Glenbrook performed exceptional and we were able to meet the goals that we had and taking that locomotive out which were to complete and validate the restoration that the locomotive had gone through to get it some miles and to be a banner bearer, a flagship for the tourism in Nevada. The locomotive was prepared with Dan Markoff with Eureka and it drew in people from all over the world. It was just such an exceptional activity and the Glenbrook came back without a scratch on it. And one of our goals was to make sure it went through a breaking period, post restoration because we wanted it to last the next 300 years without a major rebuild on it. And in order to do that, we need to break it in and put in those several 100 miles on that locomotive. When I asked the chief mechanical officer, Chris DeWitt about how he felt it went, he says, it has softened nicely. And so, we feel like we put that locomotive in a great position for the museum in perpetuity. So that was an exceptional visit. It was an exceptional opportunity to highlight Nevada throughout the world in, well, with the people that normally that are aware of railroading and want to be part of this.

Stoldal: Dan, can you off the top of your head, give us a general sense of what this cost the state of Nevada, either private fund or a general fund or whatever the cost, whether salaries or per diem or travel? Is there a general dollar figure that you can give us and the primary reason we do these?

Thielen: Our actual costs, the hard costs - I did not calculate wages because interpretation is what museums do. And whether we're doing interpretation here or in Colorado, that's what we do. And so, I never did do a calculation on that, but as far as per diem and shipping costs, we're right about \$20,000 in cost to the state. And I think we received \$20,000 in fees from Colorado. I can pull up the exact numbers.

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Stoldal: It was \$40,000, total of \$20,000 we got back.

Thielen: No, it was about a \$22,000 trip and we got about \$20,000 back. And we made several thousand dollars in store revenue because we set up a shop down there. And we learned a lot of things and quite frankly, if we go to another event like this, the store has to take the forefront to it because everybody showed up. We sold out very quickly of major items and people come wanting to spend money and it was a great opportunity.

Stoldal: Anything else in your general report? Anybody else would like to question Dan on his general report? If not, then let's go to eight. But do look forward to the updated reports on the store, et cetera.

**1. Funding request to move locomotives in preparation for Great Western Steam Up. Funds to be expended out of BA 5037, CAT 48. + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: 8B1, which is an action item funding request to move the locomotives in preparation for the Great Western Steam Up. Funds to be expended out of the category 48 and there is a request in your board packet and it is for \$98,000 The request is to move the locomotives in conjunction with the Great Western Steam Up July of next year. It's anticipated that this funding will be new to the transport artifacts including the locomotive, the genoa or Genoa JW and the Empire from the California State Railroad Museum for exhibition here. We are paying them to move their trains here.

Thielen: We would be paying freight to get their locomotives here in Nevada. This summer is the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. One hundred and fifty years ago they had a ball, they celebrated driving that last bike, and it's an important date. We would like to invite locomotives from around the region, but in particular Virginia and Truckee locomotives to be here in Nevada. And in order to do that most museums need some support. And that's what we're requesting. The California State Railroad Museum has three BMT locomotives and we would like them to visit here in Nevada and be the anchor. It'll be the largest collection of BMT rolling stock in one spot in over 100 years.

Stoldal: Dan, going back to something else that you said just a moment ago regarding what you learned from this last trip that you could have had a freight car load of items to sell in the store. Is there a budget on this where we would see what you anticipate generating an admission or revenue from the store? Any products you're going to buy? Any buttons,

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pins, anything to commemorate this that we would see some sort of a bottom line beyond the bringing tourism to Nevada?

Thielen: Absolutely. We want to tell the story of Nevada's history and that's an important part of what we're doing. And as this is what we do, the exhibit money would be going towards this. We anticipate that we will have about five or 6,000 people. We'd be selling multi-day tickets to this. We'd have a narrow-gauge day. We'd have a standard gauge day. We've got events planned for the entire four-day weekend around July 4th. We're expecting that people will want to stay for two days. At the prices that we're planning with about 2,500 people, we're at a break-even point. We want to get a lot higher than that because we've got a dinner that we're going to be selling tickets to. We've gotten a \$5,000 marketing grant from Visit Carson City and we've got about 10 or 15,000 more dollars that had been pledged to match these funds. And with these funds, it's our hope that we can get enough donors and sponsors for this program that everything's paid off before we open the gates that first day and that everything we make at the gate and in the store will be profit.

Stoldal: If we're already spending 98, this is a potential \$100,000 plus event.

Thielen: We think our cost are about 150 or 160.

Stoldal: And you would hope to net that out, hopefully.

Thielen: Yeah. We've got a lot of groups supporting us in this, not the least of which is our friends at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. But we've got the rotary club, they've got a beer truck with a license and they're going to come in and we'll have a tent. We'll have music on the property. The days that the standard gauge equipment are running on the property, the narrow-gauge equipment will be on the turntable and we'll be interpreting that. Photographers will be able to do their 360-degree beauty shots and then it'll be a pretty active day. We're planning on locking down the property and parking offsite. We're working with Carson City in the state of Nevada to move people on. And so, then we don't have interaction. The parking lot will be filled with displays and we expect it to be a pretty active and large event.

Stoldal: That sounds like a rather historic event. I hope that there is plans to record some video of it and deal with that. Just one last question from me and I will kick over to Anthony. Is this an event overseen or is the money going to go into the friends group or is this a part of it? I mean, what's the funding back to the museum? Will some go through the friends and then back to the museum? Will some just go right to the museum like in the store?

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- Thielen: That is a great question. We anticipate the money that will go to the friends are funds that they'll be a transfer of funds. For us, credit card swipes are not that easy for the state and Nevada to do, but it's easy for the friends to do. So, things where we need off where we're working where the money has to move pretty quickly, the friends are going to help us with that, but it's going to be a state event and most of the generated funds will be coming in as ticketed admission.
- Timmons: I think it's going to be a great event. Thank you so much, Dan, for bringing this to us and I think it's going to be a lot of fun. I just think it was brought a little early, a little premature because it seems like we don't have all the information we necessarily need and I would like to see a total budget so that there's one allocation of a budget item as opposed to piecemeal. So, right now it looks like there's some great ideas out there, but they're not quite flushed out a little bit. I'd like to see one budget come through ticket prices, a plan, the whole nine yards before we allocate the funds.
- Stoldal: The other thing, Dan, I would suggest, and Myron, this is really a tourism, a Travel Nevada event. If we're going to bring in upwards of five, 6,000 people, are there not grants that we could get from them to help with this cost? I'm just wondering whether or not we've even roached that topic with Travel Nevada.
- Freedman: We have not. I know there's marketing dollars in place for museum activities, so there will be support certainly in that area. In addition to that, I don't know if they're going to have funds to actually grant for project costs. That's typically not what they do. They're strictly doing the support for marketing and other materials related to that. But I'll bring it up with tourism and make sure they're aware of what's coming up here.
- Stoldal: Great. Dan, let's get back to Anthony's question. Our next meeting is going to be in March, I believe, is that what it is? Is, A, that enough time to put together the Anthony request for a budget? And, B, is that enough time for you to get approval or do we need to call a special meeting between now and our next board meeting?
- Thielen: I can get you that budget within minutes of being done with this. I have the budget and what we're expecting to do with that. But the second part of the question, will March be too late? What we need to do with this fund is we need to commit the other equipment and then we can go out for sponsors. Between now and March, we're expecting to be able to tell sponsors that if they give us \$10,000, we're going to match it with \$10,000 and this will be moving up here. We feel like we're at the right point to be asking for these funds in that they've already been budgeted in my Cat 48.

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It's an exhibit fund and this is an exhibit. Should we come back and deal with all the rest of the details? Yeah, that's a fair point and I think we're pretty mature in this process that we know what we're doing.

Stoldal: Dan, here's an option and I'm with Anthony, I'd rather not do these things piecemeal here and there. It's better for the board to have a full sense of this. We're talking about using state facilities and we're not talking about leasing them or renting them, but we're also talking about state facilities. We're talking about the friends coming in and it makes me not nervous, but that's the real question in that. We've got to use a sort of an outside agency because the state doesn't have a credit card swipe ability. But what I'm thinking is between now and in early January. This is a big event. I think it's a tremendous event for Carson City and for the state. I also like to see what Travel Nevada is going to put on the table for us. So, I'm wondering whether or not we could simply have a special meeting in the middle of January to deal with this as so we could see and then move forward. I throw that over to Myron as the administrators. Is that something that you would feel comfortable with as a way of moving forward or just your thoughts?

Freedman: I've certainly missed our additional meetings. But that's entirely doable if the board wants to handle it that way. I would agree with Dan that being able to get some part of this green lighted six months, seven months, eight months in advance, I think is kind of minimal. If the board wants to support the project in spirit and in theory and at least give Dan some ability to go back to potential donors and say this is happening and approve the specific dollars in January, what do you think, Dan? I think that would be helpful.

Thielen: I will take any support that I can get. I do not want to lose the momentum that we're feeling out there at this time.

Stoldal: Let me ask, are there any other board members that would have a no, this is the wrong way, we don't have this event in July. I don't think that that's the issue of the board. So, Dan Markoff, why don't you just jump in here and then let Anthony be the wrap up on this.

Markoff: For the last 30 years, I've participated in some of these events around the west. I've been in Rail Fair '99, the big anniversary celebration in Sacramento for the building and the museum there. Of course, I've been to the Cumbres and Toltec Railroad a couple of times, and the Durango and Silverton a bunch of times. And I can tell you from my experience, the earlier you can plan for some of these things, the better. And transportation is a big thing. Seven months from now, when we hit July, we've got to be able to plan not only for ourselves, but for the trucking

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companies. These guys get loaded up with work. And they want to know in advance what their schedules are going to be. I would suggest that we approve this thing and let Dan be able to start committing on contracts to move the equipment. This will be, I think, a stupendous event for Nevada. I think we'll draw a hell of a lot more people than we did even in Colorado. Let me give you an example now. Of course, Sacramento has a larger population base but, you know, we were pulling in at Rail Fair '91 and '99, 20,000 people a day. And they were coming from all over the place, not just Sacramento. I can see something like that potentially happening here. I would say 5,000 a day would probably be a minimal thing because this is going to be a once in 100 year or 150-year event. And to bring all this equipment together -- the Virginian Truckee Railroad is probably one of the most spectacular railroad in the country. Sure, it didn't build across the country or anything like that, but it was the queen of the short lines. And it hauled millions and millions of dollars and silver and gold out of Virginia City and kept the economy alive in Northern Nevada for a long time. So, I think the earlier we plan for this, the better, and I would support giving the fund commitment to Dan right now so he can get going on it.

Stoldal: Anthony, what's your thoughts? And Bob Ostrovsky as well.

Timmons: Mr. Chairman, I was actually ready to make a motion. So, you may want to go to Mr. Ostrovsky first.

Ostrovsky: My question was to Dan. What money do you need the next 60 days? I mean, is there some matching dollars available between now and the end of January or things you have to commit to? Would some lower number to get started work and then authorize the entire amount? Just trying to get some idea what's on your short-term horizon.

Thielen: As I'm quarterbacking this, the ability to go to donors and say we have the match that is a very, very powerful thing. The friends, because they have a small budget, they have successfully got a matching grant from Department of Tourism. We have gone through that grant process and have done that. But it was a match that they had because I could not match my funds to that. So, what we're looking at is being able to go to local businesses, we need a sponsor, and we need gold and silver members to be able to be put up matching grants. One of the other historical societies has given us enough money to cover the dinner. That has a grant that's been supported for that. Every ticket that we sell will be a profit. But the ability to go forward with, one, contracting with trucking companies now and also seeking matching grants and being able to say, yes, we have these funds on hand. I can tell people that, yeah, I have them in my budget and it's in my exhibits budget and I normally can spend that on what I feel are exhibits, but we are trying so hard to let this be the

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limit of the funds that we're going to ask the Board of Museums and History. I do not oppose at all having a meeting in January because quite frankly, we're excited about this and I want you guys to be excited about this. This is a great news story. There are a lot of moving pieces on these pieces of equipment that are going to move up here. And in particular, I keep going back to CSR and because they've got the B&T 3 and B&T locomotives. In order for them to start cutting out exhibits and moving that equipment towards a place where it can get stationed, they have to know we are actually going to have this event. And this is the biggest piece that tells us we're going to have this event.

Petersen: Dan, do you have enough volunteers or are you putting out a giant message to the public for volunteers?

Thielen: We're approaching other service organizations to take over different elements of our activity. Our volunteers will be focusing on museum operations because with visiting locomotives, there's a lot of moving pieces and safety is our highest priority. So, we're working with the brewers [ph]. We're working with other service organizations. We're working with Boy Scouts and several other organizations.

Petersen: Well, I have ultimate confidence in you. I'm proud of you for putting this on.

Thielen: We've done it in the past but what we want to go from is from good to great. We want this to be an exceptional event. We want people to go back with a smile that doesn't leave their face for a week. And that's what we're after.

Markoff: I have more of a comment. The one thing I found with locomotives is there's no shortage of volunteers if you come up shorthanded. They always seem to be around to give a hand. And so, I don't think that would be any worry at all.

Timmons: I would like to make a motion on this. I would like to move that the board shows its support of this initiative in this event coming up in July of '22, the Great Western Steam Up. And I would like to authorize the chair to sign a letter of endorsement to be shared with representative parties to show that the board is in fact in support of this action in order to get specific donors and necessary support. And then schedule a review of the budget and appropriation of funds once Mr. Thielen can go ahead and get that report to us as soon as possible. And that's my motion.

Stoldal: Do we have a second?

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Stoldal: We do have a second from Jan Petersen and Dan Markoff, please, with your question.

Markoff: Are we approving the funds or are we just approving you to sign a letter of support?

Stoldal: I think, speaking for Anthony, the direct answer is, we are not approving the funds directly today. We are approving a letter of support that can be used. And then at Dan Thielen's earliest possible convenience, whether that is tomorrow or the middle of January, that he would bring forth the budget. Whichever tool that Dan can use, he needs immediately, the letter would be here. And although I suspect that the fundraising likely is going to really start aggressively right after the first of the year. That's to answer your question, no. This is not the \$98,000 approval. It's a two-phase approval. One would be the letter. And then secondly, the full budget presentation, at which point Dan could say, no, I don't need \$98,000. I need a quarter of a million.

Markoff: From my experience, I would have to oppose not authorizing the fund expenditure now. Like I said, there's a lot of balls in the air on this thing and the truckers are one of them and we're another and the museum over in California is another. Those locomotives for instance, one sitting on a bridge in the museum and the other is sitting on a glass mirror table. And it's going to take a lot to get all that ready.

Stoldal: Exactly. We're just talking about doing the [ph]. So, we have a motion, we have a second, and I'm going to ask again for any additional comments and Dan, this is the appropriate place for you to suggest what you were starting to go forward with. You would be opposed to this motion?

Markoff: Yes, I am. By not giving the funds now. I'm not opposed, Mr. Chairman to you writing the letter or bringing this again later on. I'm opposed to not jumping on this or right away.

Stoldal: Got you. Further comments, instructions [ph] to the board? Yes, Todd.

Moore: I'm the president of the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City and one of my tasks has been to interface with the various organizations that we've invited to bring their locomotives and other equipment. We've been working on this for about six months. The 4th of July is typically the biggest weekend for all of the railroad organizations that we work with and they need to know very, very soon whether we are going to be able to provide the funds that will be necessary for their equipment to get here. And I think that if there is a significant delay, we

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will lose the commitment of the equipment that has told us they are willing to come if we can provide the financial support. So, I think it is critical that the board make a decision on the transportation funding element as quickly as possible. I certainly understand the desire to have full disclosure on the budget and that's of course, good public policy to do that. This is, however, a very unique situation with pieces of equipment that have taken a long time to get their preliminary agreement to come. And that we're at a very critical juncture right now, where if we cannot tell them this week, in some cases, that they are going to be funded in the transportation costs, we may lose them to other events. Thank you.

Stoldal: And your feeling is that a mid-January is that within reason or not?

Moore: I think we need to get back to some of them this month. I get e-mails and text messages including one this morning asking me about what the status is on the funding because the organization needs to make a decision, whether it's going to have its locomotive about its own 4th of July event or at our 4th of July event. It's a big ask for these people to bring their equipment and we've really worked very hard to get some of these commitments and we've told them that we would be able to give them a decision before the end of the year because they need to make decisions about their schedule for 2022.

Stoldal: Further comments, questions?

Timmons: I would put the onus on director Thielen to deliver a budget as soon as possible. That's the only deliverable we're asking for. If that is tomorrow, it's tomorrow. If it's a week from now, it's a week from now. That was in the motion. We're in no way punting this to next year. We're just waiting for a budget. As soon as we have that in our hands and we have the marketing plan in our plan, we're ready to approve it. So, we do agree to move forward. It just kind of puts the onus on the director to deliver those deliverables.

Stoldal: And I will say as just a board member not as chair, a flat \$98,000 without having some backing behind that, that makes me a bit nervous. Not with Dan Thielen. Not with the project, but just not, as policy, here's \$98,000. How is that going to be divided?

Markoff: Chairman, as I understand it, this \$98,000 or whatever it is, is supposed to be used for transportation and we're not talking about anything else.

Stoldal: We [inaudible] there's nothing more in there and hang on, Dan. Sarah had her hand up and Jen did before you jumped in. I don't mean to be rude to you, Dan.

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- Cowie: This is a two-day board meeting, right? So just in terms of procedure, could we vote on approving these funds tomorrow if we got a chance to review the information. I mean, I'm fully supportive of the project. I think it sounds fantastic. But I agree with Anthony that I think it's prudent to take a look at the budget and all of that and have that information before we sign off on it. But so far, it sounds great, but it's just sort of procedurally, can we vote to potentially approve this tomorrow at tomorrow's meeting?
- Ward: Yes, it has been properly put on the agenda, Mr. Chair, and the board has the option to delay this till tomorrow. As long as it's not beyond tomorrow, we're fine. It was properly noticed to be on the agenda. We have a two-day meeting, so yes, this could be put off till tomorrow. We could have a vote today. We could have it reopened tomorrow, whatever the board likes. It would be proper.
- Petersen: I'm just echoing the same thing. Dan, do you have a rough budget sort of penciled out that you could put in an Excel thing to give us an idea?
- Thielen: Absolutely. We did not have it in time for the board's deadline to build the packet.
- Stoldal: If I understand what you're saying, Dan, I'll trail this item until tomorrow afternoon. Would that give you enough time to put together the notes that we're looking for, the details?
- Thielen: You'll have it. Thank you.
- Timmons: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to amend my motion to table this item till tomorrow.
- Markoff: I can give you a rough idea of the cost. To move Eureka to Colorado and back was \$22,000. That's locomotive in the [inaudible]. The trip from Sacramento to Carson City is a lot less.
- Ward: We have a second motion on the floor. It needs to be seconded. And that's where I would suggest that this board go.
- Stoldal: We'd look for a second to delay this matter until tomorrow.
- Markoff: I'll second it.
- Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second from Anthony, the primary, and then the backup second from Dan. Further discussion? General public? All those in favors say aye.

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Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the Chair voting in favor. Dan Thielen, thank you very much for understanding where we're going with this and Anthony, it truly is important that we have as board policy, a real backup on this and Dan Markoff, yes. You know in your heart that this board based certainly on their comments, is supportive of this, but timing is an issue.

**2. Friends Group Memorandum of Understanding + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: We are now at 11:50. We have one more item under 8B, Carson City. This is the friends group memorandum of understanding. It is in your Ford [ph] packet. It's really a page and a half that has taken the better part of work started about a year and a half ago. And I would say in the last a few months, the friends group and their representatives along with Dan Thielen have worked very, very hard on bringing this product to reality. Along the way, I think both the friends in the state of Nevada and this board has recognized this is an important legal document. This is not just a couple of people getting together and let's write a few things down, and this is how we're going to go. There's lots of legal issues that were uncovered. And it said memorandum understanding it, quite frankly, is a legal contract between the state of Nevada and the friends group. And while we're going over this, the friends I think have worked really hard to make this a working document and understand the challenges that the state of Nevada has, but also understand the, we understand the critical nature of what the friends bring to the table and have been for not one decade, not two decades, but the better part of three decades to make this a museum as successful as is possible. One of the last things we talked about was that we will propose to be a five-year deal. We have reduced that the three years. This is a new world. Want to see how the things work out in the next 36 months. There's an opportunity in here to extend it to move forward, but personally, as a board chair that's been involved with this, this is a solid document. My little asterisk though, and that comes to Harry, and it was triggered by something that Dan Thielen said a couple of minutes ago, and that was this event that is coming up in July, this is a three-year deal, and it's clearly likely to exceed \$100,000 in funds. Is this something that needs to now go to the BOE because it exceeds that amount? Does the BOE have to take a look at this and say, yes, because it is a legal contract?

Ward: First, let me back up and say a few things. The MOU is a contract. And when I sign off on it as to form and not as to content, basically that means the attorney general and I, we don't have a say so in the percentage of who gets what or anything of that nature. That's what I'm saying. We look

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at it to make sure it's not against public policy. For example, if it was limited to just people that love train, wore overalls and the conductor's hat, I'd say that's against public policy. So, opposition is that as long as it is a legal binding contract that's okay. I believe that this memorandum for understanding is between two groups at this time. I don't foresee us right now having to go to BOE for anything which is down the line. I think they're two separate animals. This is just a memorandum of understanding between the groups as to how they act in regards to that. What the board does as far as advancing funds to the museum, I have to look at that, but I don't think that is a contract. What I'm trying to tell you, Mr. Chairman, is this is a contract or a memorandum for understanding that is separate from any advancing the museum funds for an event.

Stoldal: I guess what I'm worried about is the friends group has done so much work and will continue to do so much work. And we now have this legal document and all of a sudden, we didn't go through each step within the state of Nevada. The issue is how much money is the friends going to raise on behalf of the state and then provide a back to the state. If that exceeds \$100,000, again, I didn't go to attorney general school. Is there a way that we can ask or Carrie, if you can jump in, is there some knowledge you can provide regarding a contract that needs to go to the BOE?

Edlefsen: I'm very happy to, Bob. Any money that the friends raise and is deposited into the private funds directly does not go to BOE. It states in NRS 381 that all funds that are the part of the dedicated trust funds are solely managed by at the discretion of the Board of Museums and History. As long as these funds don't affect the executive budget, which the board has no control over, then the Board of Examiners has no authority over the dedicated trust funds.

Stoldal: Carrie, let me ask you, so the money that the friends raise, it's my understanding that doesn't necessarily go to the private budget. That that goes directly to the state agency.

Edlefsen: That is not correct.

Stoldal: So, any money that they raise from fundraising, Dan Thielen can't just automatically spend that? That's got to go up to the private funds and then back down?

Edlefsen: That is correct. Any money that the friends pay or donate to the museum trust funds, so the funds that the friends raise themselves, if they don't hand those over to the trust fund, the board has, as far as I know, the board has no control over that. That's not in the statute, but none of the

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money that the friends raise and that they distribute to the museum, none of that money goes into the executive budget. It all goes into the private budget.

Stoldal: Dan, do the friends buy stuff without going through the private funds?

Thielen: Yes. As a 501 C3, they operate independently and they do things at our requests, but they also buy stamps and envelopes and make copies of paper and all the rest of that without talking to me. They buy ink for a printer. I think they bought a computer once.

Stoldal: Well, [inaudible] again, roughly, I mean, how much money did they give you age [ph] of the private fund budget last year and or separately, they just went and bought stuff that was needed?

Thielen: They donated or gave to the state about \$8,000 or \$9,000 last year. And quarterly, they gave 25 percent of all their membership fees to the state of Nevada, which go into the private funds. When I say state of Nevada, I'm talking about the funds that the board controls. And then they retain those. And some of the things that they purchase on our behalf by our request are firewood for locomotives because there's not a state vendor for firewood out there. They all buy incidental parts that we need. They buy candy canes for Santa train. One time they went out and bought a uniform there for Santa Claus to wear because his was getting kind of ratty. And these are typically funds that are requested. Well, one of the big things that we've been spending money on that is [inaudible] impossible for us to get through is purchasing marketing through Facebook. And without a government credit card, it's very tough for us to do that. And so, the friends do that on our behalf. When we have an event and we want to pay for advertising, focused advertising, they go out and they pay for that. But generally speaking, everything that they purchase is directly in support of the museum.

Stoldal: Got you. Carrie, does that change anything at all as far your response?

Edlefsen: No. Anything that the friends donate as a tangible item is not tracked by the agency.

Stoldal: The question is does this agreement need to go before the BOE and it doesn't sound like it does?

Edlefsen: Not at all. No.

Ward: I concur this agreement does not have to go before the BOE.

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Stoldal: Okay, great. Now we have that from two experts. Has the board read over this contract? And if so, the key elements of this contract that Dan Thielen really spent a lot of time with the friends and with the stage in drafting and working out, are there any issues, any changes, any thoughts, any comments? Otherwise, I would look for a motion to approve.

Thielen: There are two items in there that an MOU can be up to 49 years long. And while we talk about a three-year, I would be in favor of extending that out a little farther than that. And then, one of the other points in there is the 50% change from 25% to 50%. That I don't know what we gained by that, what improvement that is on the relationship between the museum and the friends? What that benefits the museum is my concern.

Stoldal: The two issues, the one is highlighted and bold and it's called term. It's a three-year agreement. Anytime during that three years it can be extended. This is the first time we've had a written MOU and to have it locked solid for five years just didn't seem comfortable for three years. And it can be extended anytime during that process. That's the reason why it was reduced from -- Dan, how many years is it? Was it 81 years you said or something? But three years seemed to be at a reasonable amount of time to understand if there were any error or opportunities for improvement in the process that we would be able to understand those within a three-year period. The second one [inaudible] action and responsibilities item four, for the last several years it's been locked in. It was a 25% of the money raised from membership fees that was automatically given back to the private fund budget. And the suggestion was made that we should change that to 50%. Along with that line, I might also say that with Anthony's Timmons, are the board's membership policy is looking at having one membership card for the entire state of Nevada, all the museums. And that would include the railroad museums. And if you were picked up an application to join the Nevada state museum system and you were in law [ph] city, you could check the box that said, Carson City Railroad Museum, and those membership funds would go directly into that rather than into the friends group. There are still some opportunities that involve membership, including the possibility that maybe the membership should be something that the state of Nevada should handle for every meeting and that the friends of the railroad museums really be a fundraising arm separately from the museum. So that's why that there is that adjustment in the 50%. The two open things that Dan-he only was talking about, and one is changing the three-year agreement to five ears and the reducing back to the original 25% rather than 50%. Any other comments?

Markoff: I would tend to agree with Dan Thielen that taking 50% of the proceeds from the friends is going to lose an incentive for them to go out and get

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more members. I was just making a comment supporting your proposition that it should stay at 25%. And as far as the time of the MOU, I don't know. It's kind of a guess as to what's going to prove it to be worthwhile. And I don't have any problem with the three years, but it's the rising 50% of the revenues said it would be lost by the friends. That bothers me and I wish it'd stay the same.

Stoldal: It's not being lost by the friends. All that money is supposed to come back to the state of Nevada anyway, the railroad museum. The friends is not pocketing that money.

Markoff: No. The friends have always had activities that they could support that were not outside the museum, but in conjunction with the museum. I think they need that flexibility as well.

Stoldal: Any further comments? Myron?

Freedman: I just wanted to also put out there that the friends run the membership program. Other museums, couple of museums anyway, have run the program with museum staff whereas this group actually runs the program. So, not that there's a lot of cost involved with that or what have you, but it's an aspect with this friends group of the one down in Boulder City as well that I think has to be taken into consideration.

Stoldal: Dan Thielen, just a quick question. The membership newsletter of the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City, who funds that?

Thielen: The one in Boulder City?

Stoldal: I'm sorry, in Carson City.

Thielen: The friends fund it.

Stoldal: The friends fund it out of the membership fee?

Thielen: The membership fees come into the state of Nevada through private funds and they're budgeted to publish a document. That's what we use the 25% that come over.

Stoldal: How much does that cost?

Thielen: We go out four times a year and its \$700 or \$800 to put print it and then mail it out. There is another \$400 or \$500. Do you get a copy?

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Stoldal: As a member of the friends of the Carson City railroad group, yes, I do get a copy.

Thielen: It's a fine document. It's a fine publication.

Stoldal: Well, it is and it stands out from the rest of the publications in the state. It's full color and it's got a full story in it, but those are the things that I don't think the board is really aware of how this money is being spent with state funds.

Thielen: But let's be clear. So, the 25% that the friends give to the private funds to you [ph].

Stoldal: Right.

Thielen: We budget those and we pay for that, the mailing and the publication about the Sagebrush Headlight.

Stoldal: We don't know how much money the 25% is.

Thielen: Yeah. You can see it in our budget, it's in there.

Stoldal: And how much of that is to publish a newsletter?

Thielen: That's in our budget as well.

Stoldal: Do you have a rough idea? Is it 10% of it?

Thielen: No, I can tell you exact numbers here in just a minute.

Stoldal: Because if the 25% is coming back and all what we're doing out of is publishing a newsletter.

Theisen: We're running the office and we're paying for a lot of other things in the museum. Sometimes we put it in exhibits.

Stoldal: Just as a point with the 50%, that money also comes back to the state at Nevada Railroad Museum. It just has to go through into the private funds and then you ask for it.

Thielen: It goes through the private funds and we ask for it but it doesn't allow us. The best part of the friends is if you get on the Saturday night and we're selling pumpkins at our Harvest Train Steam Up, and Saturday night we run out of pumpkins and we know we need another pallet full of pumpkins, they're very nimble. The state will make a request. Will you please go

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buy more pumpkins or candy canes or things that happen where I can't get a P.O. It's really not an emergency but to keep the program running, right, it's very nice to have a nimble response to the demand.

Stoldal: The 50% of the [inaudible] pumpkin.

Thielen: No, but multiple things that happen. It's a nimble response to the demands of the museum.

Stoldal: We've got a good discussion on this. I will open it up to the board. Is there a motion? Do we want to approve the contract as written? Do we want to make any of the changes that we have discussed either in the length of the contract or in the percentage of the three? Right now, it stands at three years and 50%. Anthony?

Timmons: I understand that the DAG won't approve the content of the contract only to its form. But I would like to ask the administrator, does this prevent us from having a statewide membership?

Freedman: I'm glad you asked, Anthony. It doesn't prevent us, but I think it does mean that we have to think about how we're going to structure that program and how these railroad museums fit into that. And I think one exercise is to look at what is the income from memberships at all the museums and then look how that compares with the 25% coming in here because, you know, if we end up running the program ourselves, we'll want to make sure that we're making at least what they're distributing now, which is budgeted at \$5,300 in terms of grants coming in from the friends. So that means they're making in roughly \$22,000 a year, I guess if they're giving us 25%. So, I think we need to look at that structure and see if it's going to be a gain for the museum.

Stoldal: It would seem to me that it would be a plus because the members of the Carson City Railroad Museum are within the Carson City area. There are a few of us around the state that are also members, but that's not going to change. What we're hoping is that somebody will be in Las Vegas or Lost City or somewhere else that will say I like the Carson City Railroad Museum so I want my funding to go there. So rather than decrease, I would say this has an opportunity to increase membership and not change what the friends are doing. Most of the friends are in the Carson City area. Anthony, I hope that answers your question or at least directs it. We have a document before us. It's an action item. Does anybody want to provide a motion to move forward?

Ostrovsky: I would move for approval of the Memorandum of Understanding as provided to us in the board packets.

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Stoldal: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

Dwyer: I'll second.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second. Further discussion by the board? Further discussion by the general public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: All those opposed?

Markoff: Nay.

Stoldal: Any other opposition please state. I appreciated it, Dan. I know all the work you put into this. The motion carries with one nay vote, Dan Markoff. Unless there were others. Todd and Dan, I would hope that the two of you would come back to the board as frequently as possible with any additional thoughts, anything that's working, that's not working, anything that we need to address. This is our first memorandum of understanding with the friends and we work to make it really a working document and to support all the work that Todd and your group does.

Moore: We appreciate the dialogue with the board. This has been a lot of effort that's gone into getting to this point. There have been some changes obviously to the agreement since we last talked and I'll be taking those back to the friends board and we certainly look forward to continuing the dialogue with your board. Thank you.

Stoldal: Great. Thank you very much.

Ward: I'll be very brief. Once again, I'm on here as an initiative for my signature proving as to form. Of course, like I said, we, the Attorney General's Office, I don't have a dog in the fight is to which you guys, percentage, timeline. The only thing would be if it would exceed public policy for 99 years, let's say, look, you guys have a problem. And as you well know, this is a working copy or a draft copy approved by this board. It's my understanding that it's going to go back to the friends for their approval. If they don't approve of what you've guys approved, then it's going to have to come back to this board saying we didn't get the approval from the friends. Things have broken down. That's my understanding.

Stoldal: Broken down. I think looking for opportunity-

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Ward: We need reconciliation.

Stoldal: We are now at 12:16, again, Railroad Museum in Carson City. What's the board's preference? Do you want to try and attack a couple of more or do you want to take a breakdown and then come back at 1:00? What's the board's feeling?

Unknown: 1:00.

Stoldal: [Inaudible] 1:00 and a couple nods. Alright. This board is adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on December 9th. Please stop the recording.



**THE HERITAGE LIVES HERE.**

Board of Museums and History

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 1:00 PM

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**continued**

**8. MUSEUM REPORTS; JULY - SEPT, SFY 2021 (Information and discussion only unless otherwise noted)**

**c. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City +**

Stoldal: Let's call back in session the Nevada Board of Museums and History for Thursday, December 9. The time is 1:03 PM. We left off at item 8, museum reports, July, September 2021, item 8c, the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City. Myron?

Freedman: Carrie sent me a note that she's available after 2 o'clock. There's an item on here discussing how the budget is set up. It might be wise to wait until she is available for that item. Thank you, Chair.

Stoldal: Good idea. Could you alert when she pops up on the screen? You got the report from the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City with the announcement that there will be a new director on January 3rd. That's wonderful news. Items on this page seven, which is Roman Numeral four, membership program. Just as a sense, it looks like in FY '20, there were 459 members. I presume that's the friends group.

Freedman: That's correct.

Stoldal: And that number got down significantly to 348 for FY '21 by almost 100, a significant number. And then we've looked at no new members in the first part of the fiscal year '22. Is that correct read [ph]?

Thielen: As I understand it, yes. They have said that when we extended the memberships during COVID and we sent out renewals that many of those renewals did not get picked back up. It's another lesson learned that, I

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think, in some ways we anticipated poverty on behalf of people that may not have been, you know, devastated by the COVID shutdown and that assumption that we just move everybody 90 days to the right may not have been, I mean, while the intention was really good, I'm not certain that I would ever advise doing that again. I think we would take it as a person-by-person. When somebody calls and said, I want to be a member, can I delay it until I get money again? I think that's a reasonable response. But kicking all the members over, I think that's something I won't do again.

Stoldal: Is anybody from the friends on board to sit on this meeting? No? Okay. So, potentially, that number could even fall below 300. It would be interesting to see what the membership however was before in FY '19 and FY '18 to see if there is a pattern beyond COVID.

Thielen: Right.

Freedman: I'll look that up, Chair.

Stoldal: Thank you. We're going to accept now that we have an MOU in place as Ian [ph] works on an MOU with the friends in Boulder City. Certainly, we'd wait until the new director is on board before we make any significance on that. Any other questions on the Boulder City as far as the museum side? And I also think we are waiting for the new director before we get an update on the equipment. Is that correct?

Thielen: We submitted that you. It should have been in the board packet.

Freedman: Actually, Chair, you and I had gone over the agenda draft and I had made a note that I think we should wait until the new director is on board. So, I pulled that. I apologize I didn't let you know.

Thielen: That's completely fine. That makes a lot of sense. We want to give a little bit more granular on it. I think that we got a direction and this sets the course for the new director down there so he sees where we're going. Since I submitted the board packet, we've gotten a reach out from the Nevada test site for possible acquisitions into the collection [ph] of Boulder City relating to the nuclear rocket program and the nuclear cruise missile program. And so, we're in discussion with the Department of Energy and their representatives about some pretty interesting pieces that are at the test site right now from a cool period of history out there.

Stoldal: Another major story to tell at the museum there in Boulder City.

Thielen: It is. I mean railroad in Nevada at the mine, the dam is important. But the big things weren't mining and it was transportation through that area. And

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then we got this really, really cool bit of test site history, which is a story hardly anyone knows about and big artifacts could capture people's attention and tell it our really best main story.

Stoldal: There's several things that are in the works. We have the new director coming in, the project that Myron talked about with the new visitor center and museum, a new MOU coming up with the friends of Boulder City, a report on the condition of the rolling stock, and an update on the whole budget process that funds the Boulder City Railroad Museum. So, there's lot of real opportunities for the Boulder City facility in the next 12 months and a lot of work. I think both of you are going to be visiting Southern Nevada with the railroad in the near future.

Freedman: We are actually.

Thielen: I'll be down there this weekend, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. And then I'll back down again around Christmas. And then I'll be back when we get the new director on board and then back down on the 20th or near the 20th of January. And any of those times, I'll truly be happy to meet with everyone who can break free and give me the benefit of their thoughts while I'm down there so we can make sure that what we do is advantageous to everybody.

Stoldal: Harry, here's a trick question. I was just thinking of the process and I'm looking at the screen. And not only, of course, the ongoing request to mute your microphones if you're not talking or you have elephants or other animals in the background over your house. When we come back after a lunch break, I wonder whether or not there's a roll call necessary to determine if we still have a quorum. Is there a procedure on that that you're aware of?

Ward: For the record, Harry Ward, deputy attorney general. A lot of times, going back to in person, you visually would see the people that are there. Since we are using this hybrid or using Zoom, it might be quite possible, but we can always determine that when we take a vote. We could either do it by roll call or you could just acknowledge on the record that I visually see all these board members. So, that would be my recommendation.

Stoldal: Okay. Four, five, six, seven, eight, nine -- looks like we have at least nine members or at least their screens are still up. Maybe next time we have a Zoom meeting and it's a two-day meeting with a lunch break, we'll just do roll call. It's not going to hurt to do that. Any additional comments or thoughts on the railroad museum in Boulder City?

**1. Discussion of how museum budget is set up (for possible action)**

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Stoldal: We'll put off item 8c1 as far as how the budget, in fact, is prepared.

**2. Rail Explorers Agreement Update + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: Item 2 as far as Boulder City is the Rail Explorers Agreement update. Myron, Dan?

Freedman: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to kick this over to Dan. He's been working closely with the groups down there.

Thielen: We are going on a month-to-month agreement with the Rail Explorers at this time. We are working out details of a contract that we think we have contract language that's acceptable to us and to them. And every time we make an agreement towards the permanent or the four-year contract, every time we make an agreement towards us, we start implementing it right away. So, to that end, we went from a current trend wide charge, which was like \$180 a trip, to an individual charge to right on our railroad. And to bring the board up to speed, we have about five days a week that we're not used in the railroad that gives us an opportunity to generate income on that rail. We have, in the past, been operating our railroad equipment in conjunction with the Rail Explorers and there are a number of reasons why we did not like that arrangement and not the least of which is that the use of the railroad outpaced our ability to maintain rolling stock. And so, we've gone through where the Rail Explorers are now getting themselves down to the end of the track and getting themselves back by use of individual battery-powered rail bikes. So, the interaction between 80 town locomotive and a little tiny rail bike, we're not introducing them together at that time. And for that, they're paying \$6 per person to ride on that railroad. In the previous agreement, we were getting about \$1.50 from Rail Explorers for each person that went on a railroad. And that was used to buy diesel fuel and repair, equipment, and keep things maintained. We did a very deep look at our budget and realized that the actual cost of hosting Rail Explorers were substantially higher than that, probably 2.5 times that high. And so, it was like \$4.5, something like that, that the cost was and we looked at the most easy way to account for and to make it easy for them to budget the plan around and we decided that a third person use of the railroad was within the spirit of the law of a train ride fee, which was something we already did, versus a contract that went out separate who got lump sum. So, having said that, in this quarter to date and the quarter we're reporting on in this report, but this quarter, we were expecting our cost with running diesel to be above \$45,000. And at this point, Rail Explorers has paid us \$63,000 and they are going to, of course, at the end of December pay us for what the ridership in December. I'm projecting that in this quarter will be about \$70,000 and

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those are cheaply on days that we are not operating our program. And so, if we're at 70, then perhaps we're targeted to make our nearly \$300,000 from Rail Explorers and that's where we're at with this agreement. We see a substantial increase in revenue generated offer by railroad from Rail Explorers. We also see a substantially decreased use in fuel and maintenance cost on our rolling stock with the new arrangements by using batteries. We think it's a good relationship. While we know it brings people to the museum, but we think it brings people to Boulder City and Clark County, which is good for our parent agency.

Stoldal: Question from the board? I got a question. I don't understand how you have an agreement to use a facility that hasn't come before this board. I don't understand how you're already implementing. But we don't have an agreement. I don't know how this word is being defined, Dan. I mean, all of a sudden you said that the result is great. It's wonderful. That's the direction we should be going on, but we don't have an agreement.

Thielen: We have a month-to-month contract.

Stoldal: Changing it. Who is authorizing the changes? Who is doing those changes? We got Myron. Is that his board? Where is the authorization to approve a contract? Is the Board of Examiners approving this?

Thielen: The Board of Examiners approved the initial contract. And I am taking the agreement of that initial contract that I cannot go below anything that agreement. That contract has expired. The council and the review of the statutes has said that if the contract expired you can continue it on a month-to-month basis so long as you're making progress towards an agreement. I am taking it on the spirit that there's no authority for me to accept less money than that initial agreement was. And I can go over and above on top of that money to accept more money and to make it more beneficial on behalf of the state. And that's how I've been progressing in good faith.

Stoldal: Myron, has this thing ever come to the board or is this all going to just be approved administratively, because it's like a done deal.

Thielen: Absolutely not a done deal.

Freedman: It will come before the board. I know it goes against how this should function. But it's an existential issue for that museum. This is the bulk of their revenue right now. It's a problem that started brewing a while back. And I think Dan has done his utmost to get the group there, the vendor, to change things up. He's increasing the revenues. He's helping to cover the cost for the repairs and the maintenance. And there's a lot going on

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down there while we're waiting for this to fall into place, while we're waiting for the repairs to the other equipment so they will have confidence in their engines and the backup engines and all of that. So, yes, it's unorthodox, but it's an existential problem for the site and so we think it's in the best interest to continue until we can get the final agreement in place.

Stoldal: I'm just looking to have a significant pause in the transcript. I don't know about existential as far as a legal control for the state of -- I don't know how that word fits in. I can't understand why we can't have all the elements within the contract. We look at each one of those. The state negotiates that and then a contract is brought before this board and then it's got to go to the Board of Examiners as well. Any other commissioners have a question, comment? So, we are then endorsing this existential negotiating process.

Freedman: Harry, you and I had a discussion about this a while back regarding an ongoing situation like this and you had some thoughts about continuing with the vendor while we're working out the details of the new agreement. Can you share any of that?

Stoldal: And Harry, within the context, working out a new contract is one thing, but implementing the elements of the new contract piecemeal, that's a different question. So, we're going to these contracts. We're approving it piecemeal. Help me understand that as well with Myron's question.

Ward: First of all, my understanding is that the original contract was approved by the BOE. It has been approved and without me going back and looking at that, this board has been approved. Saying that, it is my position that all boards should be doing everything openly and publicly and going through or approving all contracts that all within the scope of that board. Going back to this contract, there are continuing negotiations. My understanding is that this contract has expired. So, it would be a great area if one or either of the parties, quote/unquote, "defaulted," on it, whether they would be entitled to reimbursement or would have exposure or whatever. Generically, when a contract has expired and there's an oral agreement to continue it, it's usually done on a month-to-month basis, especially when both of the parties are trying to negotiate a new contract. This is done quite often or is done in the legal profession. As long as there's no complete utter breakdown where there's absolutely no possibility of a resolution of a new contract, it is permissible. Then it goes back to the gray area, depends on how long can they do this. Well, that depends and this is going to be on a case-by-case basis. My recommendation is once something is hammered out, obviously, this should come back to the board, go back through the BOE with a new contract since the other one has expired. That would be my synopsis of this agenda item.

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Stoldal: Well, we're still leaving out the element there's nothing wrong-actually I don't want to say right or wrong-the process of having a contract expired and then renew it month to month to month while you're negotiating new one done all the time. It was not done all the time in implementing a green piecemeal with parts of the contract as you continue to negotiate and implement and those usually you extend the existing agreement, negotiate a new contract, and then approve that new contract then it goes into effect. I've never heard of it. We're going to say, okay, we'll approve section one. It's an entire contract. All those things are inter-connectable. I have a concern about this. This is an important arrangement. Rail Explorers is a legitimate company. Dan is doing a [inaudible] work in working this through. I don't want Dan in a middle of a situation that unnecessarily. It sounds to me like we cannot go back to the original contract and simply extend that month to month to month while we work at a new one. It sounds like we already agreed to a series of elements in that contract or you approved or at least approved at somewhat but not at this board level or at the DOE. I'm just so out loud battling a bit here because I'm not sure how we should handle this.

Thielen: And the changes that we are putting in place as we work forward are absolutely based on a couple of things that we requested on behalf of the state; number one, to quit moving our equipment down the track in back and forth because we did not have the ability to get things repaired in a fashion that met our end of that requirement. And so, the fundamentals of this contract cannot change. People go down the end of the track and they come back. Since we took the train out of the mix, somehow you have together that revenue back in order to make them use the track. I've made the most prudent and the most advantageous arrangement that how do you account for not having a train in the mix. So, the closest thing I have is already a ticket based provide fee to use a railroad. It changes a little bit of the arrangement, but essentially we're gathering a fee to use our railroad and we got the train out of the mix.

Stoldal: Dan, I don't think anybody is questioning that.

Thielen: I [inaudible].

Stoldal: We're questioning the process of how contracts for the state of Nevada are negotiated, how contracts for the state of Nevada are implemented. And Harry, I think we need to provide Dan with some advice, what he is doing is well within the bounds of, I will say, process. I'm not that familiar with every state process or how everything works in the state of Nevada. It's just in private life, in business life, that I've seen in my years working

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with the state that a contract is arrived at. But Harry, if it's okay, then we should move forward.

Thielen: Let me give you what I anticipate the end state looks like, is the second Tuesday in January, we have to have a contract submitted for the Board of Examiners to meet in February. And then that if the Board of Examiners agrees to it in February at the March Board of Museums and History meeting, the contract will be presented to you. And if the Board of Museums and History is satisfied with that product, then we have a contract.

Stoldal: Now, that's even confusing to me. The Board of the State of Nevada, the big board, is going to approve this contract and then we're going to come back and say, I don't think so.

Ward: Absolutely.

Thielen: There are two parts of this contract.

Stoldal: The other way, it should go from this board up to the Board of Examiners and the Governor, not the other way around. This board should see that contract and it should say yes or no and then it goes up to the Board of Examiners and not the other way around. We're not going to overrule the Governor and the Board of Examiners. Harry, I think there's two things that you need to get in. One, can we do this contract this way, piecemeal, and implement it piecemeal. And then secondly, what's the proper process, us the examiners or the examiners and then back?

Thielen: If that's the process you want to see-we don't do enough contracts like this. It's a revenue contract. So, the Board of Examiner agrees to their side of it. And the next Board of Museums and History is in March. If we want to have a special meeting on the contract or all this, we can do that. And then I can meet the February Board of Examiners deadline.

Stoldal: You know how much I like special meetings.

Thielen: And so, we can go month to month and continue. And at the March 4 Museums and History, we can submit the packet and then we will hit the May Board of Examiners meeting.

Stoldal: Well, Harry, I think it if you could provide Myron and then Dan, according to rule which way we go, we go here and then the Board of Examiners or the Board of Examiners and then us, that would clarify that part. Nothing wrong with us having a special meeting. Hopefully, we're going to address

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the railroad issue tomorrow so that we don't need a special meeting. So, Harry, I'm kind of looking to you for guidance.

Ward: My recommendation would be as you suggested, Mr. Chairman, that a proposed and agreed upon by the board contract go to the BOE as opposed to the other way around because then if it goes to the BOE and approved, it comes back to the board not approved, then we have to change it and we have to go back through the same thing and get BOE approval again. So, my recommendation is and will always be let's get it approved, ham it out between the parties, approved by the board, and send it up to the BOE. That eliminates the process of it having to come back down and get reapproved. That would be my suggestion.

Stoldal: Myron, are you comfortable with that?

Freedman: Absolutely, yeah. And I'll work with Harry and Dan and we'll look at the BOE process and make sure that the revenue aspect of this is still valid to go this route because as Dan's pointed out it's a revenue contract. And so, it's a little different.

Stoldal: All of our rental and lease agreements of facilities are revenue contracts. So, I understand that. And Dan, thank you for all the work. And clearly, your goal is to get that into a more beneficial to the state and really to the railroad museum down there and to keep the railroads work. [Inaudible], there's two or three companies out there that do a similar thing with the railroad's [ph] board but that brings a lot of people into the museum and some revenue. We just need to get the legal side of it worked out. Harry, thank you for that, Myron and Dan. Unless there's further discussion, can we move on?

Ostrovsky: Mr. Chairman, Bob Ostrovsky. Did you want to authorize them to take action, waiting for new contract or just let it proceed?

Stoldal: Well, it does list it as an action item.

Ward: Mr. Chair, you do not have to take action just because there is action. And likewise, I think you made a comment you are not in a position to have the board or you don't want this board to, quote/unquote, "okay," a contract that is not, quote/unquote, "up to par," as to what you believe a true contract is. That was my indication. So, my suggestion to the board would be take no action. Hopefully, we can go back to the board with the approved revenue contract and proceed as follows.

Stoldal: Robert, is that satisfactory [inaudible]?

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Ostrovsky: That's fine. I was prepared to authorize that you negotiate, but it's fine with me.

**3. Acceptance of donation from Magnusson Trust + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: That does sound like approved in motion, but let's move on into item number 3, which is the acceptance of donation from a Magnusson Trust. Dan or Myron?

Freedman: It's in your packet there. I think it is the final installment from this trust. And I just did a little communication with the trust itself when I saw this to make sure that there were no restrictions other than it being used by the Boulder City Museum. And so, I included what they sent me. It was page from the actual trust document and I talked with the executor about it, who is actually the sister of the person whose name is on the trust. So, yeah, it's free and outright as long as it's been used by the Boulder City Museum.

Stoldal: And this is included to the private fund and then they would request how to use it?

Freedman: It will be deposited into the private funds. I don't have the B.A. in front of me.

Thielen: It's 5037.

Freedman: I know it's 5037, but the category. But yeah, it will be definitely going to 5037, and designate it specifically to Boulder City.

Stoldal: I'd look for a motion.

Timmons: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion that we accept the donation from the Magnusson Trust.

Stoldal: Thank you. Do we have a second?

Ostrovsky: I'll second.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second. Do we have further discussion, board, general public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

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Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the chair voting in favor. Dan, thanks. Yes, go ahead, Myron.

Freedman: I just wanted to let you know that it looks like Carrie is joining is again if you wanted to return to the other item.

Stoldal: This was an item requested by the board in its ongoing continued effort to understand and be part of the solution for the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City. This is item 8c1 [ph] discussion of how that museum's budget is set up, different than other museums. Carrie?

Edlefsen: I want to clarify, are we discussing the executive budget or the buyer budget?

Stoldal: Yes. One thing to tie into the other in the sense that the Board has been told that the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City is operating under a 2006 business plan that was based in part on comments to the state legislature. The business plan calls for the railroad [ph] funding itself as far as staffing and that business plan has been in place since 2000 and it's 61 degree or another. The trains have not run several years or different years. And so, how is that budget related to the general fund budget, if that's the proper way to ask that question.

Edlefsen: Just to reiterate, the private budgets, the trust fund budgets do not intermingle with the executive budgets. They are completely separate. They have authority by two separate bodies. The executive budget is covered by the legislature and the executive offices, the Governor, and such. So, now, everybody needs to please remember I didn't come into museums until 2012. This agreement occurred as they were establishing the railroad museum in Boulder City based on the research that I did. What I was able to find and extract was testimony through the legislature during the session that established the Boulder City railroad. And in that, it was determined that the general fund would only support a certain part of the railroad. The railroad would be required to support itself through its train or IPs [ph]. Now, I believe through time, things may have more of into a different model. I believe the intention was that originally general funds supported 75% and the railroad had just accorded itself 25%. Within a few years later, it went to a 50-50 split. And then after that, it was somehow within the Governor's Finance Office it was determined that the personnel cost would be covered by general fund and then the Boulder City railroad would in itself fund itself through its train ride charges. This all occurred before I came. I can't specify what cost these changes. I do know after the recession. It could have been part of that. There were a lot of changes that occurred funding wise for many agencies during that period of time. But I do know that that is the funding model that the

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Governor's Finance Office and at that time was just the Budget Office has settled on for the Boulder City Railroad. Very similar to that is the Carson City Railroad. They do have a full general fund tourism funding support for their personnel cost; however, they are set up to fund their operations 100% through their train ride and through their admission cost on their own. I know I'm bouncing around a little bit. But like I said, I'm doing this from memory and it was a brief research project I did so that we could start to establish a reserve for the Boulder City Railroad. Currently, at the end of the fiscal year, if there are funds remaining after their train ride fees, they cannot be applied to operational cost. They are reverted to the general fund. We always felt that that was not appropriate, that the railroad should be able to keep those and hold them for times of financial shortfall or times of major mechanical issues, which is why, I believe, it was the 2018 and 2019 biannual budget build, we submitted a decision unit to the Governor's Finance Office to create a reserve category and to allow the railroad to keep its railroad fees and not revert them to the general fund at the end of the year. There was a tradeoff. There was also request that the personnel funding be changed to be reflective of all of the other museums where they were supported 100% split equally between general fund and tourism funds. I know before I left, I had a discussion with Dan Thielen that when a new budget bill comes that this should be addressed again. The Governor's Finance Office just denied that request flat out, no reason, and they're really good at not giving reason for a request like that. I don't know if they felt that they were going to have to spend more general fund or what the case was. But ultimately, the Boulder City Railroad should be able to keep their train ride charges so that they can use it to support their operations during times where there's critical issues. Do you have any questions?

Stoldal: I think that that's even a day or a month or a particular exact wording maybe not, but the general sense of what you laid out really provides the beginning what we will need to make sure that the Boulder City Railroad, without being dramatic, is not the stepchild of the system. It needs to be on equal footing with the other railroads as far as funding, and the staff of the Boulder City, they have three people down there?

Thielen: That's correct.

Edlefsen: They have four positions. They have three that are filled now, Dan?

Thielen: That's correct.

Stoldal: They have four positions. How many positions are authorized for Carson City Railroad?

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- Thielen: Ten.
- Stoldal: So, you got 10 people on staff. And then are they funded by the private funds?
- Edlefsen: No.
- Thielen: The store positioning in Carson City, none and the store position we [inaudible] in Boulder City.
- Stoldal: It sounds in Boulder City there is no store facility for [inaudible] container kind of a thing and there's no admission fees. So, lots of various that makes it sort of imbalanced. The question is how do we move forward to bring a somewhat quality to what's going on in Boulder City, some of the challenges that we are facing there today, some of the opportunities for improvement, are clearly based on the staffing challenges and the funding that we can't use [ph] each other's money back into the train fee. But how do you think we need to move forward, Myron?
- Freedman: Sitting down with tourism and looking at the transfers, again, with fresh eyes, and just looking ahead with whatever projections they're looking at and just talk to them about the distribution but also I think getting back to what Carrie's talking about, which is in the next budget bill being prepared to ask the GFO to support, you know, not reverting the funds. I mean, it is possible to spend the money before it gets reverted, but that's proved to be challenging as well as we've seen. So, I think not reverting it is the way to go. I haven't gone through that process myself, but we'll try it again.
- Stoldal: One thing I would suggest is, amongst the many things that this board has legal NRS responsibility for, it starts off with NRS that we have an advisory role and that advisory role goes up as well as down. And it would seem to me that if board could send directly to the Governor's Office some advice, some recommendation on how we balance the opportunities in Boulder City with the way the other facilities are being operated, I think this board would certainly look toward providing that advice to the Governor's Office and at least moving forward in an area.
- Freedman: Thank you, Chair. That would be very welcomed. I see Dan has response to chime in here. Go ahead. Mr. Chair, I'll throw it back to you.
- Stoldal: Dan?
- Thielen: I just need to address a couple of things. So, there's a misunderstanding that Boulder City is treated different from any other railroad museum and the personnel is the inequities, you get 10 up here, and you got four down

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there. A couple of things with that. Number one, the revenue to pay for personnel costs are the same in Carson City, in Ely and Boulder City. So, the idea that the-

Edlefsen: Dan, if I could interject. The revenue that supports Boulder City is different. The revenue for Boulder City has to support 50% of their staff by train ride charges.

Thielen: I'm looking at your funding map, so I misread that. Let me back off from that. I missed the funding map. During this last shutdown where we had to lay people off, Boulder City laid zero off. I laid three off up here in order to make sure that the operations were taking place. So, I'm still hurting up here in my operations. I'm authorized to have 13 people for the 13 slots up here. And I'm not filling them because we made room in our budget to keep those people on in Boulder City. So, there's been some equitable distribution and that doesn't really get acknowledge very frequently.

Stoldal: I think there is still, Dan, real opportunity to make sure our mic switch are off, on mute. And then secondly that we have an opportunity, if the board can help in some way by communicating with the legislature or by communicating before then to the Governor's Office with some ideas on how to uptake this from the-and I went back in and dug out to legislative. I had access to the legislative hearing back in 2002 or 2003 and it wasn't quite as [inaudible]. It was what's clearly there's a new arrangement with the city how is it going to work and then Scott Cisco [ph] in turn, the previous administrator, then ordered a [inaudible] to come up with a business plan in 2006. And out of that business plan was the idea that we're going to be able to fund the operation down there through the excursion dream [ph]. It didn't quite work out. So, as Carrie pointed out, adjustments have been made. But there's still an opportunity for an adjustment as we move forward. As Dan pointed out, he still has some open positions with the board funded museum for sure [ph] will use that 14 authorizing one since and maximum in Boulder City is still four. So, there are some opportunities there, especially when we're going to be building this museum and visitor center, the staffing of that has to be brought into place. So, Myron, unless there's more information that you need from the chair and from the board, I think that was very helpful. And I'll let you, Carrie, if you would look at the minutes when they come out and see if there's anything that you want to double check and make sure that you were on target or want to amend, we'd certainly be willing to listen and hear that as well.

Edlefsen: I'm going to take a look at it.

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Stoldal: Any further questions or comments? Dan, any last words on Boulder City?

Thielen: And it's the big pole in the tent that I've neglected because things have just gone wonderful. Our fire system is still down. We're working with Public Works to get that thing up. And so, we have been locked out of the facility since before Halloween, September 3 to the beginning of October. And it's a \$30,000 fix. And we think we're having problems hiring people in this. Getting a contractor to sign a contract is almost killing me. We located the funds to get it done and getting people to bid on the contract and getting people to sign the contract and come do the work in Clark County is murder, but we're progressing. And we're getting a lot of support from Public Works. We don't have that kind of money laying around to fix things. And as we talked about advocating and advising up, our entire budget needs some attention to maintain ourselves through problems like this instead of addressing them as they fail.

Stoldal: I understood you have the \$30,000. What you're looking for now is somebody to write the check.

Thielen: Yes. Come in and do the work.

Stoldal: Alright, Dan. Thank you very much. I appreciate that. It's important. And please let the board know. I'm not sure if the board can do anything on that, particularly signing a contract, but we certainly want to know when that facility is open again and when you will resolve that. Thank you.

**d. East Ely Railroad Depot Museum +**

Stoldal: Let's move on to item D which is the East Ely Railroad Depot. You have your board packet. And I think that Shawn is with us. Please take a moment to again review it and refresh yourself, and if there's any questions while the chair does the same thing. We bring in this report specifically that you prepared that you want to make sure that the board is aware of and we will have a discussing up after this on the report on the community meeting. But as far as this board report-

Pitts: Just very excited to add a person two days a week. His name is Ruben Gonzalez [ph]. He's extraordinarily helpful when you have a minimal staff to be able to have just one more tool to be able to call on to make open hours in the event somebody is sick or taking an annual leave date. Very excited to have Mr. Gonzalez [ph] with us and adds well to the staff that we have. And I'll be pleased to take on the community meeting when you're prepared for that in the agenda item.

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Stoldal: And you found the batteries for the emergency lights?

Pitts: We actually replaced the lights and it was cheaper to replace the entire unit than to replace the battery. It was amazing. New technology comes along all the time. We have replaced all of the exit lights in the depot building with new LED. They're brighter. They're less expensive than buying simply the battery to replace the old ones.

Stoldal: How often you get a visit from the state fire marshal?

Pitts: The last one before this one was three years ago. They used to be every year. But then they skipped a couple and now they're back. We're excited to build [ph] the report and we accomplished everything that they asked us to do. Any questions from the commission? Myron, do you have anything you want to add?

Freedman: No, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**1. Report on Community meeting +**

Stoldal: Then let's go on to the second item D1, report on the community meeting. There is a page in your book, freight building scoping meeting.

Markoff: Mr. Chairman, Dan Markoff here. I have a question about whether or not the Nevada Northern was trying to still hold our facilities?

Freedman: Well, I'll remind you of kind of where we are, which is why we sent them draft agreements, MOU, and a draft agreement for use of the gift shop area in the depot. And the freight building is simply not a part of any of these discussions other than in our efforts to work out an MOU with them. We're looking to be good partners. And so, we will be very open and generous with use of the freight building. And so, we've never gotten any response to these documents. We sent them a couple of times. And in different periods of the negotiation, but just recently we went out earlier, either late summer, early spring. I don't remember the exact month. And we've not heard anything back. So, my takeaway from that is they're looking to find still another way to have control of the building. And so, our job right now is to continue ahead with our efforts to improve that building. We have plans with state public works to, once we have the funds from the bond sale, complete the construction drawings and start the improvements for that building. And I think until we actually make progress on that, they're going to continue to probably think differently than we do about the whole matter. But we also have state public lands in the mix here. So, they're being approached as well to see if there is a route through their agency to the building. And of course, they keep

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throwing it back to them that it's under our control. We continue to be the ones who are making the agreements, selling them out, waiting for them to respond. I do have a meeting coming up with the Governor's Office simply because we had been talking to staffers there about this issue because it tends to go to into the executive office, probably through the foundation. Now, we want to let them know, the new staffers because they come and go. So, now, the new staffers need to be brought up to speed. So, I'm meeting with them in a couple of weeks to bring them up to speed on where we are and then to get their thoughts on the matter as well. I hope that that's somewhere close to answering your question, Mark [ph].

Markoff: What about them approaching the legislature again and trying that route?

Freedman: I don't know what their plans are. I assume that's something they're considering.

Markoff: We're almost right back where we started then? Is that correct?

Freedman: We're moving ahead just the way I see it. I've been working with public works on the plans. They've been out there. They met with Shawn. They toured the building. They talked about the changes. We have an agency agreement ready to be signed as soon as the funds are authorized. We have an architect standing by to do the work for all of the improvements that we want to see done. We're ready to do all that. We're just waiting for this authorization. In my mind, we're continuing on the same track we've been on. But this is a good lead into what steps we took recently, which was to go out there and include the community on planning for use of that building.

Stoldal: Dan, the bottom line is the state is not standing still. We're moving forward with both the freight barn. We're getting public input with the depot. We're ready to spend the money and we're ready to continue to work to develop an agreement. Whatever the railroad does, that's their business. It may come before this board again as they've did last time during the legislature and this board passed a resolution after a daylong public discussion opposing the unilateral takeover in [inaudible] because they were not really forthright in their presentation to the legislature. The state of Nevada has provided millions of dollars to that facility, everything from travel brochure, funding through the Department of Travel, through the Commission on Cultural Affairs and Historic Places, millions of dollars to restore structures out there. The idea that the state of Nevada has just been sitting on the chance and not doing anything was very inappropriate. After hearing testimony and discussions from their lobbyist as well from their operator, this board passed a resolution opposing the takeover. It's

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come up in other legislative sessions for the last, I don't know, how many legislative session, Bob? For a decade it has come up. So, your question will come up in the next legislative session. If I was a betting man, which I'm not, I would bet that it's going to come up again. Myron and that team is doing the right thing. We're moving forward. We're taking care of our responsibility for those two buildings and we're ready to work out an agreement on that.

Markoff: I was aware of that. But my question is, what's our backup plan, if we have one. I know we're spending money on it and we have spent money on it, and lots of money. And that they think that they can just take it over by a legislative fiat, of course, that has to get past our governor, too. But have we ever gotten an idea, dollar amount, how much we've spent out there?

Freedman: We presented that information during the legislative hearings. I don't have the figures in front of me. But it's north of \$30 million when you consider every single thing that's been done out there and the people who had been involved. Shawn, I think that's about the right amount. Maybe you remember more accurately.

Pitts: I think it's little north of that if you count. Just building restoration alone, we're well over 3.5 million building maintenance over the last three decades. It is over 2 million. And then, the staff that it takes to run a museum and the educational programs that were uniquely suited before here in Eastern Nevada. We're the only ones who do that. The investment has been huge to address Mr. Markoff's concern. I fully expect they're going to make another run to the legislature. Just knowing the players that have been involved and they're probably making efforts to do that now. And it will be grueling. It will be tiresome because we've done this. Four different legislatures, four different governors have all said that that's a bad idea. But it doesn't stop them from asking.

Stoldal: We'll show within the bounds of this agenda item that, but we're straying a little bit. The report, I think, will help us continue to move forward as the freight building scoping meeting would I think directly, Dan, addresses some of the issue where it is a part of what the state is doing. It went out there and listen to what's going on. And of course, we're going to hold our meeting next year in September in Ely. Myron, you want to jump here and carry us through? Then if Dan has some additional question after your report on this scoping meeting, we can go there? Is that alright, Dan?

Markoff: Yeah.

Stoldal: Thank you.

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Freedman: This grew out of thinking about what improvements to make in the freight building going forward. We wanted to make sure that the community understood that we were doing this with them in mind. And so, we invited them to the freight building for a meeting and Shawn arranged everything. Shawn, I thought we had a very good turnout. It seems like we had the people who needed to be there were there. Maybe you could talk a little bit about how that went.

Pitts: Certainly. We invited community stakeholders, we call them in every aspect that we thought would be helpful in helping us plan out what this buildings needs to be to meet the needs of our community. And so, we had education represented. Business was represented. Tourism was represented. And then government was represented. And it was overwhelmingly positive. We appreciate Myron and Dan Thielen coming out here to Ely and logging all those miles to get out here that we were able to take the community ideas, to put those ideas on paper, and then that's the result of the report that you got. There were some ideas that we didn't think of. I thought the meeting was extraordinarily positive and lets us go forward proactively saying to public works and to anybody who wants to hear this. This is what the community is asking for. This is what we're planning to provide. The state of Nevada is actively working to make this into a facility that does meet the needs of this community. And I think it thrived in really well with some, you know, [inaudible] museum wants to partner with us to make a single chronological timeline of exhibits that tells the entire history of the county that currently isn't don't anywhere. Our mission is to focus primarily on 20th Century industry but that leaves out the entire first people story. And they have the artifacts. We have the space. We'll be working together to make that happen. Tourism was a very valuable partner who said, look, you need a niche. You feel the niche that we currently are needing now. And we're happy to feel that niche. Business said we need a space like what you have and we'll be happy to pay to rent it. And education was very excited about the possibility of doing some things that are never been done in here. So, all in all, very positive, happy to move forward. With all appreciation to Mr. Thielen and Mr. Freedman who came out to help with that, we really are on a very positive track to turn this building into something that is going to be better than we initially thought.

Freedman: I want to just jump on that. To just note that the manager of the convention facility was part of this meeting. And he was extremely helpful, and he talked about how this was an addition, not stealing from their business but an addition because we had a historic environment that they would help promote because they didn't see us as a competitor. They saw us as adding to the community. I thought that was great that they

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were there. And the mining company was there, and they're very supportive. I'll be reaching out to them to see exactly if that support can translate into support for the project itself.

Stoldal: And we used the freight building. I want to call something else because it was not just some freight building. This was the place where local businesses had slots and they would pull their wagons up and it would be unloaded. They had their names of the businesses on the outside. This is a central piece where the merchants would come over with wagons, and then the material would-so, it's not just some building offer, the business. It's a freight barn. Is there another name for it, Shawn?

Pitts: It can certainly be argued that Ely owes its existence to that building. In White Pine County, we have more ghost towns than we have Counts [ph]. And the reason that Ely is [inaudible] is because our railroads supplied it and all of those supplies went through that building.

Stoldal: And some of those signs are still there? Are they not [inaudible]?

Pitts: No vendor. And our plan to keep those signs there and make that part of the interpretative [ph] story.

Markoff: Is there some way to get a list of the expenditures we have made to the East Ely facilities?

Freedman: Yes. We have that information.

Stoldal: Myron, that just may be helpful to send out to the board just so we have it because I remember last time the lobbyist for them, they were calling individual board members and were lobbying or attempting to lobby. So, I think, Dan, it's a good idea to keep the board informed of what the state has put in there.

Ward: May I suggest that we move on? We might be straying a little too far from this agenda item in what we were just discussing.

Stoldal: Guilty of straying. Thank you.

**e. Nevada State Museum, Carson City +**

Stoldal: Item E, the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. Dan, we will take your thoughts and Myron will follow up on those as well. I guess part of the big news is as for this, if I'm not mistaken, Myron, you announced that you got a nation search on for a director there?

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Freedman: Yes. But after this meeting, I may have to rethink that. Alright. Strike that.

Stoldal: You're [inaudible].

Freedman: We have a search for a new director and it's a national search, and we'll see how we do. I'll give them a few more weeks to collect resumes and then we'll see where we are.

Stoldal: If you like some help from the board, somebody from the board from the Northern Nevada area, we're more than happy to be part of that.

Freedman: I will definitely include someone from Northern Nevada board member to help us with the interview process. Thank you.

Stoldal: Thank you.

Markoff: Which museum is that, Mr. Chairman?

Stoldal: Carson City, the right shipment in-Myron, is there anything in this report that you want to make sure that the board is-

Freedman: No, times are difficult right now, but we're managing.

Stoldal: Coin press is down? How was that doing?

Freedman: The coin press is, as of just last Saturday, operating again. It's been down since September. And it's not the coin press itself that's been down. It's the motor that operates the press. The press originally was steam operated. They converted it to electric power. There was an electric motor that ran the press. And it's that motor that needed some work. And it took a long time to get the work done. But we were grateful for the help of Chris [ph] at the Railroad Museum. He actually did all the work or the fellows out there. So, it's all back online now. And Saturday was our first day, I'll mention again, since we shut down in September. However, it's at the end of the year now. So, we're going to really start promoting things when we have the new reversed dye, which will come in in a couple of weeks for 2022. We'll pair that up with another dye for the AB First [ph] and we'll make a big deal out of having some perfect medallions again. We've recently conducted an annual appeal. We just finished that, raised to close to \$15 million. That money is earmarked for our exhibits program. We're trying to get into the galleries in A [ph], look at refurbishing some of them, but more importantly, to get the Natural History Gallery design process going again. Those funds will be earmarked for that. And then the other thing, the staff is spending and myself quite a bit of time on is the

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reaccreditation process. We have deadline on Monday for what they call a progress report. We've had to do a lot of work to get ready for that. Staff has been working very hard. All the curatorial staff and Myna [ph] and Mary [ph] and George [ph] and Jean [ph] and Hannah [ph] and Rachel [ph] have all been contributing to this. We need to present a snapshot of kind of where we are and update some core documents. And then we have roughly until next September to finalize everything. Part of that process, what's falling on me, what I've been spending most of my time on is looking at the staffing schedule and how that ducktails with the next couple of years. That's taken some time and then the code of ethics has work to be done. A couple of people spent quite a bit of time on that. And Myna [ph] is here. Myna [ph] has been spending her time looking at something very important to AAM, which is something called DEAL. It's diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. Myna is sort of our task force to make sure that we've got a process in place to do better in those areas. And she's of course, also the one who is managing our programs. If you have any questions about anything in the report about our programs, let us know and we're here to answer them.

Stoldal: Two things. One, that's exciting news. We're moving forward with updating the accreditation process. And two, it sounds like a lot of work, a lot of energy that goes into that. But clearly, it is an important document. And if there's anything that the board can help, please, I'm sure that there's many numbers of experts on the board in different areas. If you want to call upon them, I'm sure that they'll be more than willing to raise their hand and I know you're understaffed in a lot of area.

Freedman: Actually, we'll be sending around to the board members a draft of our institutional plan. We'd like to get your feedback on that. And we'll incorporate changes and suggestions that make sense.

Stoldal: Are you not suggesting we would give you suggestions that don't make sense?

Freedman: I will take everything on an advisory capacity. Myna [ph], do you have anything to add on that process? Did I leave anything out?

Myna: We have several areas of the museum that were progressing on and reporting to AAM and we're on target for our due date on Monday. So, it looks like it's working out.

Stoldal: And Myron, when would you expect those come out to the board?

Freedman: My plan is to send out a draft in January, probably mid to late January.

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Stoldal: And you need those back relatively quick from the board?

Freedman: I've got to serve like a three-month process on that. So, get the comments back and then do a new draft, and if necessary, send it out again.

Stoldal: Right. Question from the board, comments? Accreditation is moving forward. That's great.

**1. Acceptance of restricted donation from Fowler + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: Myron, you had a couple of action items, E1, restricted donation.

Freedman: Yes, sir. If you look in your packets, you will see we're asking for approval of a donation from the Fowlers and that is in the amount of \$500 and then a second one in the amount of \$500 from the Downtown Business Association.

Stoldal: Let's take item E1. That would be 8e1 first, the acceptance of restricted donation from Fowler. I look for a motion.

Markoff: So moved.

Stoldal: Do I have a second? We have a second from Doris. Further discussion of the commission?

Edlefsen: And we're doing both of these in the same motion, right?

Stoldal: No, separate motion. This is item E1, acceptance of restricted donation from Fowler. We have a motion. We have a second. Further discussion? No. Public? Okay. None. All of those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries for those in attendance and the chair voting in favor.

**2. Acceptance of restricted donation from CC Downtown Business Association + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: Next is item 8e2, acceptance of restricted donation from the Downtown Business Association. Anything you want to add to that, Myron?

Freedman: No, sir.

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Stoldal: Alright. We look for a motion.

Dwyer: Doris Dwyer. I -- oh, sorry.

De La Garza: Go ahead.

Markoff: So moved.

Stoldal: We have a three-way tie. We'll then go ahead. And now, we need a second.

De la Garza: Second.

Stoldal: We have a motion and we have a second. That's on item 8e2, acceptance of restricted donation from the Business Association Downtown, Carson City. Further discussion? General public?

Markoff: Yes.

Stoldal: What's the restriction?

Freedman: Well, they were given with restrictions. So, the first one is for collections care [ph] anthropology, collections care. And the second one goes to a program fund for special events that includes Day of the Dead.

Stoldal: Alright. We have a motion. We have a second. Further discussion? General public? Seeing and all those in say aye?

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with the chair voting in favor and those in attendance. Thank you all for that. Myron, thank you.

**f. Lost City Museum, Overton +**

Stoldal: Let's move on to 8F, Lost City Museum in Overton. You have a report before you and do we have the director ?

Timm: Good afternoon.

Stoldal: Mary Beth, welcome. Anything in this report? I just want to make sure that we pay attention to. All of it, of course, but anything you want to make sure we don't miss.

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Timm: Good afternoon. Mary Beth Timm, director of Lost City Museum for the record. We had a pretty good quarter. It was slow in terms of attendance. We didn't have very many events. We did have one school tour. One of our curators sit in an online lecture for UNLV that had over 100 continuing educational people in attendance. I forget the title of the course exactly, but it was very successful. They loved it. We did do some fund raising this quarter. So, we had year highlights for this year and they all happened in September. We did an online auction at the close of our Hot and Dusty Fine Art Invitational and I don't have final numbers for that. I do have a letter for the acceptance of donation and we can talk about that in a second. But we also were awarded a Nevada Humanities Grant for about \$4,500. So, that's exciting for us. We haven't had a grant in a couple of years. And we're going to use it for a Native American event in March. We had to postpone because we're waiting on the Governor's Finance Office to create a place for this money to land. Even though we've been awarded the money, we don't have the cash on hand yet. The second part of that grant is to bring in workshops. We're going to ask the American individuals either through the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, that would be their own tempo [ph], or through their own electoral board to nominate someone who would be appropriate to come into our galleries, take a look at our exhibit content, and then start commenting in how we can have more of the Native American presence within our museums. We already had a little bit of movement on that even though we don't have cash on hand. Willis Evans [ph] was a civilian conservation Corps member in 1935 and he was a Pit River tribe member and he led the excavation of the museum site. All the field notes are in this on hand and his family has come forward and we're pursuing a partnership with this family to try to get his story more prevalent within our narrative at the museum. And so, that's an ongoing project. We hope that we'll open at our Native American Celebration in March. Any questions that the board may have?

Stoldal: Earlier in the meeting, with Carrie's help, we created the new donation account in the private funds. You may want to look and see if that's a place to simply-it's already been paid. We don't have to wait for the Governor's Office to do anything. They could potentially just put it into that account then you can draw from that. Myron, go ahead.

Freedman: Yes. State or federal grant funds would go into the executive budget.

Stoldal: I was just trying to find an easier way. Maybe I could get to begin using that money. Any question from the board? Information? How are Adobe [ph] is doing or buildings off to the right?

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Timm: No movement was conducted during this past quarter for that CIP. It is under public works discretion when they decide to spend the funds. So, even though that project was approved, we wait for them to continue the project.

Stoldal: Myron, you're close friends with those folks who are there. I'll move to see if there's some roadblocks.

Freedman: Well, they were out there. They did an initial assessment. Correct, Mary Beth. So, yeah, they're taking the right steps. But I think another phone call is probably due.

**1. Acceptance of restricted donation from Docent Council + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: There is one action item here, the acceptance of a restricted donation from the Docent Council. Mary Beth, you're going to walk us through that?

Timm: Yes. I was working with Carrie Edlefsen before she left the division. And there was a little bit of non-communication on my part, but we've figured out how to do this. And the solution that Carrie presented to me was to have Docent Council give a letter that's saying that they're committing these funds to a restricted donation. But they haven't given us the cheque yet because the funds are still tied up in PayPal from the online auction. And we're also selling a few things on consignment through our cash register because some people were distrustful of an online purchasing system, but they were okay with coming in person and using their credit card. It's a complicated system. I think we've raised about 2,000 of that 2,500 with the potential to exceed that.

Stoldal: All we're suggesting with the acceptance of this motion would be to accept the funds when they do come in?

Timm: Correct. And this will create the restricted account much like with your board funding where the money will have a place to land so that once we have it on hand we can do something with it immediately. All the things that we've already sold on consignment, we could transfer into that restricted fund. But until that's created by your board approval, we can't accept the fund. And the restricted donation fund for this is the CIP [ph] project that we did submit in. That's \$2.1 million for the design and construction of the museum collection storage building, which would be in our lower parking lot. This is to raise capital that eventually we will have, hopefully, a matched fund that we can go to the state and be like, well, we have this much money, which demonstrates community support for the

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project. We hope that you can commit the rest of the funds. If not, then we'll still have that money to help us buy supplies for the move and transfer items for shelving or for equipment that would go into that office space and collections facility.

Stoldal: Questions, comments? Now, we'd look for a motion.

Markoff: I never turn down money as a lawyer. So, I'll move to accept it.

Stoldal: There's a motion to accept item 8f1, acceptance of restricted donation from the Docent Council. We have a motion. Do we have a second?

Dwyer: I second the motion.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second. Further discussion? General public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor, say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with those in attendance and the chair voting in favor. Mary Beth, any last words?

Timm: Thank you very much for your time. Hope you all have a great afternoon.

**g. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas +**

Stoldal: The goal was for this day to be done by 3 o'clock. We've got about 20 minutes to go. And let's see if it takes you-Nevada State Railroad Museum, which is 8g, the overall report and Hollis, are you there?

Gillespie: I'm here. Pleased to be here. You have my report. I might add that we continue to operate four days a week, consistent with the Springs Preserved operating plan. So, we've seen, I think, a pretty good rebound in our attendance, in our store sales, obviously, less than previous years because of fewer operating days. And like everyone else, we're still, you know, trying to step up. We're about 40% vacancy. But we've submitted the paperwork to get a facility supervisor replacement, maintenance worker, and most importantly, a history curator that will really allow us to, I think, operate more evenly and perhaps even expand to another day. Springs Preserve has not publicly announced that they're going to be going back to a Thursday through Monday schedule January 6th. We're feeling a little bit vulnerable to adding a day at this point simply because we don't have the facilities coverage. But I'm pleased with how we've been working. And so, I'm not sure. If anybody has any questions from my report.

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Stoldal: Questions, comments?

Gillespie: I'm disappointed that you're not here in person in time and it looks like I've lost my spot in the sequence. So, perhaps, in a year and half.

Stoldal: Well, I did have the option to visit the facility a week or so ago. And it's a great facility and we look forward to the next opportunity in the cycle. Maybe many special meetings that Myron likes to conduct, we'll do it at your facility. If you [inaudible] membership sales, can you give us a sense of where you're going with that as far as coming out of COVID or if we are coming out of COVID at least moving in to 2022?

Gillespie: I think I would characterize what we had was sort of a pause. And then just in the last month, we've gone out with renewal and we're just starting to see a little bit of that trickle in. We haven't decided to do any kind of an annual feel, although I'm shamed by how well Myron did. I might take that as my challenge.

Stoldal: Just ask Myron for his mailing list.

Gillespie: And yes, if he'll automatically give it to me. I think I have to earn it still. I feel like we're still doing pretty well with it, except that we do have member saying what's the benefit of getting it, we're not getting anything in addition. And so, one of the things that I've started to work with staff is to see how we can perhaps better define what the membership includes and then probably play up. There's a brand new site manager at the Springs Preserve and she's very keen on trying to get people from the Springs to come as a destination to walk over. It looks like we're getting about 30% penetration. Although right after Thanksgiving, we were about 50%. I think we need to work with him to try to see if we can get a point of sale from membership sales there as well as here. I will say anecdotally there's still a very consistent message that not being able to do things online is a barrier. It's a strong barrier to enter. When people say that they have put something out, put at the main, or they have to do it in person, they might take a membership, but they don't do anything with it, it seems. I would hope we can move collectively in this more consistent state-wide membership program to anything that would make that a little bit easier.

Stoldal: Anthony has had to leave us. We're not going to hear his report or deal with the board policy on membership until tomorrow morning. It will be on the agenda. So, if you could be here for that.

Gillespie: That's fine.

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Stoldal: And one of the things that we need to have is consistent benefits throughout the state wide system, some challenges there are truly with the railroad museum. The challenges with Las Vegas facility is the issue with the Springs Preserve, the benefits sort of linked together there. But those are all just opportunities. And so, if you can be in attendance tomorrow morning when we do with that [inaudible] and online truly is an opportunity. Other questions from the commission, the board? Hollis, please let us know what's the next step is in opening. Four days a week, I'm sure, you'll be working with Myron on that as well.

Gillespie: Yes.

**1. Request for Additional Spending Authority for NSMLV Museum Store Budget 5039, Category 49 + (for possible action)**

Stoldal: If we have no other reports, there is one action item under 8g1, the request for additional spending authority for the Nevada State Museum of Las Vegas, the store budget. Hollis, please walk us through that.

Gillespie: I'll do my best. My understanding is that this is an annual kind of experience where there's a spending authority for the store but with staffing and merchandize it doesn't take us through the end of the fiscal year. We're asking for additional authority because we're using a manpower person 20 some hours a week and we're trying to make sure that there's enough inventory. Looking at our sales to year-to-date, fiscal year, we're having almost stock outs in some cases. So, we're doing well. There's a strong indication of we'd be able to—we got like a 30% profit margin this year. And we're seeing a big pick up in actual store sales. I will add that the part-time museum attendant, she's not a part-time museum attendant, but she's part time in the store to help out. She is a buyer by training. And she has been doing an excellent job at coming up with the right mix of items and price point. Really pleased to see how things are turning around. Most recently, the store has been working with another staff member on site to have more online presence in doing some professional photos so that people can see what they can buy before coming in here. And that's been helpful as well.

Stoldal: I'd also recommend that you have a conversation with the chair of the Museum Board Store Committee, Jan. I will say this that in past years I was not really impressed with the material that we had in the Las Vegas Museum. It just seems to be very, very expensive or just odd and it didn't quite fit in to the facility. But it sounds like you got somebody that knows what they're doing, and it would help Jan and the board to be in the loop

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with information as we move forward. The online is visible. It's not that far down the road. So, please stay in contact with Jan as well.

Gillespie: Will do.

Stoldal: Thank you. Is there any question from the board on the memo or the request? If there are none, I'd look for a motion.

Petersen: I move that the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas be requested their grant for money.

De la Garza: Second.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have second. Is there further discussion on this agenda item, which is 8g1? General public? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously with the chair voting with the-

Gillespie: Thank you.

Stoldal: It makes me want to go to the museum. We are 16 minutes ahead of our 3 o'clock deadline. Anthony is not with us and will be presenting a report tomorrow. And we will be combining 9d as well as 10c on the membership policy. He will give us a report on the committee meeting that was held. And then we will look at the changes that may be necessary with Tennessee as we move forward. This is our annual look at board policy. It's one of the important things we do at the end of each year. Myron, what do you think? We can probably get done before noon tomorrow, I think, starting at 9, we'll probably get done in a couple of hours at the most. What do you think?

Freedman: Yes, sir.

Stoldal: Alright, beyond that, I would suggest that we are adjourned and please stop the recording. See you all at 9 o'clock tomorrow.