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Board of Museums and History

Friday, December 10, 2021, 9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES
continued

Stoldal: I'd like to call to order the Nevada Board of Museum and History for Friday, December 10. First item of business, has this meeting been properly posted in compliance with the Nevada's Open Meeting Law?

Freedman: Yes, it has.

Stoldal: Please call roll to determine if we have a quorum.

The roll was called with Stoldal, Ostrovsky, Dwyer, Petersen, Schmitter, Timmons and De la Garza present. Excused were Cowie, Mooney, Markoff, Schorr and Hoferer.

Stoldal: Next item on the agenda, board announcements. Reminder that the board meetings are audio recorded and speakers need to identify themselves before speaking. And just for the chair's benefit and other members of the panel, just try to give us a sign that either of you have a motion or unless you want to discuss the issue. Next order of business, public comment. Public comment is welcome by the board. A period of public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on allowed before the board votes on each action item on the agenda. Because of time consideration, a period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three minutes, at the discretion of the chair. Speaker is urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers. Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, Section 2, public comment options may include, without limitation. They could be submitted via mail or email or telephone. Has any board member received any comment over the last 24 hours, it should be included in the public comment section of the minutes. Mary Beth?

Timm: I would like to make a public comment. We have our holiday open house tomorrow at the museum with a raffle at 2:00 PM. The prices will go

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towards our Docent Council and our educational programming. We have a lot of really good donations, such as spa packages, show tickets to the MINDFREAK Show by Chris Angel. And then we have like some [inaudible] packages and other items that are gift baskets. So, you are all invited to come out to our open house tomorrow roughly at 2:00 PM. Thank you.

Stoldal: Great. Thank you. Any announcements of the members of the board who received? Anthony?

Timmons: And maybe that DAG can help me out with this. But I don't know if we have to disclose the fact that we got messages from Dan Thielen yesterday in regards to follow up to the item that we needed to discuss today regarding the budget and the event coming up for the Train Museum. So, I don't know if that has to be considered today or not. I'll defer that to our DAG.

Ward: No, that does not have to be disclosed. Just as long as no violation of the open meeting law where the board members have conferred about that information. That's why I always emphasize to people when you send an email, send it to people but don't cc others, et cetera, et cetera. If you have to, you can always blind copy your system or something like that. But always my concern is that it's a walking quorum, so just send it directly to a person, not respond to all members.

Stoldal: And Anthony, just for the record, my next statement is that I was going to ask each board member if they received the material on two of the items on today's agenda. Details that of museum finance Chair Bob Ostrovsky will use in his presentation. That was sent out. And if I could make sure that each board member has received that?

Unknown: Yeah.

Stoldal: Okay.

Unknown: Yes.

Stoldal: And the second one was the budget and additional material that Dan Thielen sent out following the request by this board to move that matter until today. But those details including sort of a PowerPoint and a schedule, inventory [ph] detail. Did the board receive that as well?

Unknown: Yes.

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Stoldal: Great. And then the question is those were pieces of information that should be part of the board packet that came before the board at a public meeting. So, it should be both posted as part of the board packet. On to the agenda, yesterday, we agreed to move HCI under museum reports the funding request to move locomotives in preparation for the Great Western Steam Up. A request of \$98,000 is in your board packet as part of the Nevada State Railroad Museum Carson City's report. The item for the board was moved today so the board could receive a background, more information report from Dan Thielen not only the budget but a schedule of events and that was in fact sent out. The event, of course, is on the July 4th weekend. At this point, unless there is some questions from the board, I'm going to move it over to Dan. This is an action item. So, Dan, if you could sort of walk us through the details of your budget and the we can move forward. Anthony, this was in part of your request. Is there anything that you want to add before we go to Dan?

Timmons: No. Again, I'm going need Harry's assistance on this one. The initial request came in for \$98,000. Is that kind of where we have to cap out or can we make a motion to approve more funds now that we have a budget and we can see pieces that may need to be allocated as opposed to doing one offs each one? So, Harry, if you can advise me on this, sir.

Ward: No, the board is not bound by the numbers like in any agenda item. You could reduce it or increase it.

Stoldal: Thank you. Dan, to you.

Thielen: We are expecting that between grants and donations that we can meet a lot of the extraneous needs of this. The moving [inaudible] is what we primarily want to use this \$98,000 to operate. And we expect that we will bring in at least 10 pieces of rolling start and we can do that under that project map [ph]. That's our estimation. And then the rest of program, as you can see, we detailed what we have a good grip on this expenses are. And while this is interpreted event to highlight the 150th of the conclusion of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad 150th anniversary of it, we think that there's potential to actually raise some funds for projects here at the museum. Our conservative estimate brings us at about a break-even point for the money we're spending from the board. Our realistic estimate puts us at about 200,000 which would bring in a return on the investment. And optimistic, if it gets out of control and we end up with 400,000 or with 10,000 people, we could make quite a bit of money. And as you know, there's always quite a bit of need at the museum that this money would go in perfect pattern. Can anybody hear me?

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Stoldal: Dan, this is a quick question. Does any of this money that you're going to be raising go into the friend's account or does it all go indirectly into the museum's account?

Thielen: Some of the money goes into the friend's account and for a variety of reasons. And so, some funds are donated to them because we can't match funds frequently with the state funds. We can't go and get tourism money that the friends can. And if they need a matching grant, that's where we need to have fluid cash on hand. So, the state gets some. Some of the challenges with getting them for this program as we get them donated, then you have to do a work program and get them applied. This program we want to do, and we're not proposing this happens on this one, but in the past, 20 years ago, when this happened, private funds from the board's accounts were given to the friends and the friends spent them and provided an accounting of that. We're not proposing to do that at this time.

Stoldal: I guess I'm just trying to assume that a sense of the budget process, the spending process, the sequence of events of this \$98,000. None of that is going to go and cycle [ph] through the friends and then back to the state. Is that correct?

Thielen: All the ticket sales will be done by the state. The \$98,000 we're asking for, we anticipate we will contract the trucking agencies on behalf of this other entities and move their equipment with that money. So, you can anticipate in March getting contracts to approve for this event.

Stoldal: And we have the list here. I mean, very detailed budget list that you presented the board, expenses item one, which covers the \$98,000. That would stiffen, for example, to Reno Fire Department that's just money to help them. We're not going to track that down. They're going to do that themselves once it's stiffened?

Thielen: If we can, yeah. One of the challenges with the state is we can only pay on arrears. And so, when somebody says, hey, we need help. We can't send them a check prior to the event and then hope that happens. On those stiffens, they're going to have to move their equipment and we're probably going to have to get an invoice from them, turn them into a state contractor and reimburse them for actual cost. Does that make sense to you?

Stoldal: Yeah, that does. But I'm not sure if I understand. I thought the private fund budget didn't just occur.

Thielen: I don't think there's a vehicle in the private funds to send money prior to anything taken place. I am not informed of that. The friend could send

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somebody a check and do these types of things. But at this time, how we're proposing to do this, we contracted the trucking agencies and turn them into vendors and they would bring equipment and give us an invoice and we pay the invoice.

Stoldal: Dan, do you want this to be a loan or you just want to give us the cash?

Thielen: It's been budgeted for exhibits and programs of the museums. So, it's already been budgeted. And I don't want to look at it as a loan. I would like to look at it as we're going to spend this on behalf of the museum and it's \$750,000. We're talking about around \$100,000 of money that we have on hand. And so, it's been budgeted for programming at the museum.

Stoldal: (Inaudible). Do you think that the \$98,000 in essence will come back in to the private fund for the museum?

Thielen: The concern investment after everything's been paid for, we probably will break even. That's my goal, is that the private funds will be made whole. If it goes over the top, then perhaps we'll get that \$98,000 back and another \$98,000 on top of it. And last, to spend that on the restoration of this equipment. This is a big event and probably on July 5th we're all going to tap and say, I'll go to doing big events like this. Everybody here has done this in the past, our 20 to 25 years older never before. And it's going to wear us out. We know we're biting off something here. But we can't let this this anniversary pass.

Stoldal: I'm on that. Thank you. Question from the board. Anthony?

Timmons: Mr. Thielen, do we have an idea what the revenue share is with the friends in percentagewise?

Thielen: The revenue share? We're not proposing a revenue share. There will probably some opportunities for them to do things that they typically do, but this is a fundraiser for the museum. Well, let me take that back. It's an event for the museum that has a potential to raise funds for the museum. They were not driven by revenue generation.

Timmons: I'm ready to make a motion, if you're ready.

Stoldal: The relationship with the friends in both ends of the stage is just so important. So, I want to make sure everything is clear. You said to Anthony's question, there is no revenue share with the friends, but the friends are going to be helping us with, I think you said, the credit card swipe and that money will go into the friends account and then the friends

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will move that in whole back to the museum or will any of that stay within the friends?

Thielen: At this point, they act as a passthrough. We've never had a reasonable and customary charge. They've never charged us the handling fee. If there are funds that belong in the museum, they have moved those to the museum rapidly. I cannot over endorse how carefully the friends manage funds that they hold on to and manage funds that they incidentally come into their control that belonged to the museum. If you look at their past audits, there have been, I think, no audit exceptions and the one time we had a mistake in a deposit at the end of the event that money came back rapidly to the state and had an audit trail that we went through our audit, they were like, oh, that's clean, exactly what happened, the paperwork all matched up. They are an absolute supporter of this museum and they are absolutely wanting to be completely transparent in what they're doing.

Stoldal: Dan, my question really was not that broad. It was the fact with credit cards, the credit card company's charge of fee maybe is 3%. I was saying the friends were absorbing that or that would just be deducted as part of the normal course of the process and then the money move to the museum. And not whether they were going to take 50% of it and it was more just a technical question on whether they were going be donating the cost.

Thielen: I expect that that fee will probably be absorbed. But tell me what your preference is.

Stoldal: Todd, Judge Willis [ph], what's the normal procedure and the fact sheet just deduct 2% or 3% or whatever it is?

Moore: We anticipate that in so far as ticket sales go, the fees will be paid by the ticket purchasers. So, there would be an admission charge of \$40 plus an administrative fee that would be paid by the purchasers. So, it will not go through either the friends or the museum.

Stoldal: Okay. Great. Thank you very much. Anthony, if you're ready to make a motion?

Timmons: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion that we approve a budget up to \$122,000 for the Great Steam Up event in July of '22 to cover both infrastructure as well as covering exhibit transportation cost, and that's my motion.

De la Garza: I second.

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Stoldal: Myron, question?

Freedman: I guess it's more of a question for Dan. Dan, you say this was budgeted, and I've checked your budget. I see the amount in there. I know you want to be a little bit careful about how much you budget out of that account. The \$98,000 I know is something you've determined as a result of your programming. Does it help to beef it up to \$122,000 or is that just blow that budget out?

Thielen: No, that would absolutely give us some breathing room. I would absolutely accept that and I think that's a reasonable use of that budget. It hadn't been budgeted before. And quite frankly, I am very thrifty and I hate to spend money. But that would be exceptional.

Stoldal: Dan, you already got it based on your budget. Where you got \$10,000 as a floating contingency for you already. [Inaudible]. It's not \$98,000. It's \$88,000 plus 10 grand for odd stuff. Anthony, if I can ask you, where did you come up with the \$122,000?

Timmons: It's \$98,000 for the exhibit transportation cost and the additional \$24,000 for item number two, which is infrastructure, just to make it easy that we don't have to do multiple approvals because we're pending information back from Travel Nevada or from Department of Tourism as to whether they will cover part of the advertising cost. So, we'll just kind of leave those right now until we figure out where we stand with those. But those are two costs that I can see that are pretty imminent and that we would definitely need for this event, so just trying to simplify motions for the board to approve.

Thielen: And I see your logic clearly and this would allow us to lock it in and still get donations and maybe fill that back up rather than--yeah. I see your logic and thank you for that.

Stoldal: We have motion and we have a second for the discussion out of the board. Doris?

Dwyer: Would you repeat the motion?

Timmons: Absolutely. I approve a budget allocation up to \$122,000 for spending on the July 2022 or 2022 event to cover both the exhibit cost as well as the infrastructure cost as provided in the budget by Mr. Thielen.

Dwyer: Thanks.

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Stoldal: We have a motion and we have a second. Are there other question from the commission? How about the general public? Todd?

Moore: I would just like to thank the chair and the board for its indulgence in allowing us to submit the budget documents as well as our slide show so that you can better understand the event that we've been planning and we look forward to hopefully seeing all of you over the Fourth of July weekend in 2020 and hope you enjoy our event. Thank you.

Stoldal: Thank you. General public question on that? Hearing none, 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. Thank you very much. Dan, thank you again for the backup material and it was really helpful although your verbal presentation yesterday and the enthusiasm and the outline clearly, it's a wonderful event. Although you may seem a little nervous that everybody is not 25 years older. We have to deal with that as we move forward.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS (For possible action on items a through e)

Stoldal: Let's then move on to the next agenda item, which is nine, the committee reports. Each one of these items, A through E, is an action item or potentially an action item. The first one up is 9A, the chair of our finance committee, Robert Ostrovsky. Mr. Ostrovsky, I turn it over to you.

a) Finance, Robert Ostrovsky, Chair (members: Stoldal, Timmins)

Ostrovsky: Everyone should have received the detailed statement and the ledger that supports it for the third quarter of 2021. This is a background. The S&P 500 year-to-date as of today has returned 24.73%, the NASDAQ 20.52%, and the Dow 16.86%. So, it's been a very good year overall. The third quarter, and these numbers reflect that, was almost a breakeven situation because July and August were good months, but September was a losing month in the market. The market S&P was down 4.76%. NASDAQ was down 5.31% in September. So, it's pretty much these reflect not much movement on the market value for this quarter. You will note that the ending front balance of the unrestricted account is not as of September 30th, \$1,596,053.98, the restricted funds held in the Treasury's Office is \$3,961,400.22 for a total of that we're managing of \$5,557,454.20. That is an increase over this quarter. You have to go back and look at the detail to see money coming in and money going out of these accounts, but

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we've had a good year. We continue to have a good year. The market has been up and down again. But these are extraordinary numbers. We never get that return as we've talked about before because we have considerable amount in bonds. So, if we harvest even half of the market return, we would have a tremendous year, over 10% returns. We will, at our next meeting, get a full report from Morgan Stanley, a year-end report, to know exactly what our returns were after we take the adjustments for money in and out as the year goes. You can see by looking the various ledgers that we have that flows in and out. For example, the money we just authorized today. So, I have other items, Mr. Chairman. We all shift to the discussion about the finance committee, but I think we had to hold them until we talk about the policy, which is coming up on the agenda under policy review in Section 10 of the agenda.

Stoldal: So, this is, we'll say as a path [inaudible] or simply a report. We can simply accept the report or we don't have to do anything. I would suggest that we just have a motion to accept the report and then we will talk about any change in the board policy coming up under Item 10B and D. Board's pleasure?

Ostrovsky: I gave the report. I don't want to make the motion.

Stoldal: I'll make a motion we accept the report.

Timmons: Second.

Stoldal: And we have a second per the instruction of the board. 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. Bob, thank you very much for that report.

b) Marketing & Technology, Seth Schorr, Chair (members: Timmins)

Stoldal: We had a treasury report on 9B marketing and technology from Seth Schorr who is out of family emergency and it is likely that there will be a special meeting of the marketing and museum store as we move forward to develop and implement the online store business. But right now, we do not have a report from Seth on 9B.

c) Museum Store, Jan Peterson, Chair (members: Dwyer, Cowie, Schorr)

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Stoldal: Let's move then to 9C, which likely will have some elements of what Seth and Jan have been working on. 9C, Jan Petersen Chair.

Petersen: My report is rather loose. I've been working with Seth and first of all, I have to apologize to Sarah who's not here today. I was unaware she was on the committee. But believe me, she will be cc'd and clued in on everything from this point out. We are strongly suggesting that the museum stores, all of them, and some of them are doing it anyway in their own fashion, moving forward with selling things online. Seth has worked with Shopify to be the manager of it. That's not the right word, but that's all I can think of. And words [ph] themselves will have to figure out what items they would like to feature initially. Some items perhaps could be sold universally throughout the whole state board store system. I've talked to small museums here in Elko who have one in two employees and they use the same type of system, it works for them. And we're going to move forward with this. It's a slow process. And we will have a better report and more extensive report for you in March. We went to have a Zoom meeting with all of the store managers. Time just escaped as it manages to do. And we're going forward from there, but we're in slow but forward motion. And I want to thank Hollis [ph] for throwing in her three cents worth of opinion on this. And I think we can make this happen. When I talked to the Folklife Center across the street from me, he said they only have maybe six or seven sales a week, but it's been worthwhile. It's been good publicity for the Western Folklife Center in general. And he couldn't see any negative anything about it. Both FedEx and UPS and the post office will pick up. So, people, employees are not going to have to go to the post office and stand in line. Arrangements can be made to do that and, you know, you just get to scale and pre weigh the stuff. And I just think it's, it's the wave of the future and we're going to have to move with it. It could involve, probably will involve having volunteers help with this. But I think they all have volunteers anyway that should be willing and able to pitch in with the process.

Stoldal: Jan, thank you very much. I would tend to disagree with a couple of things you said. One, this is not the wave of the future. This is the wave of a past. We are so far behind in the State Museum system with online sales. I'm embarrassed.

Petersen: The wave of now.

Stoldal: The wave of now and I contacted several smaller museums and they are not overwhelmed with the with the amount of work and I'm not sure where the pushback is coming from that the staff for example in Carson City, the mint [ph] museum there is going to be overwhelmed. If they become overwhelmed then we hire some additional people. Leaving money on the

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table is just not the way that the system is. Our museums are going to survive so, I think that the board is going to have to be more than supportive since it is a Nevada Revised Statute, a responsibility of this board. And we need to be a little bit more aggressive in mandating that we move online and I look forward to the store committee's public meeting. At that public meeting, I think it's imperative and important that we expand the store committee and include some additional members rather than just to be on Jan and Seth's shoulders that this role has become a board challenge. But Jan, thank you for that. Any other comments from board members?

Petersen: And Doris is also listed on this committee. Both [inaudible] will be super included in everything and, Doris, if you would go talk to the Fallon Museum and see what they think. I also had an extensive talk with Jana, Dagerman, who's in charge of them. [Inaudible] or the shop at Red Rock Interpretive Center in Las Vegas, and they have done extremely well doing online things. They also have a great volunteer system that stock shelves, runs the cash register, does everything. It's not as cumbersome or overwhelming as it seems to be. Seth has done the hard job of figuring out the computer type part of it. And then it's just set up through the website. So those websites are going to have to be spiffed up and made more attractive, which somebody with more brains than me knows how to do, but I know it's entirely possible, and somebody who knows I.T. and all of that. I don't think it's that challenging of a thing to do. If [inaudible] involved in the beginning, it just goes from there.

Stoldal: Yes. The world is filled with online museum stores, large, small, and there are dozens of people that have already gone down the path and said this works, this doesn't work. Here is what does work. So, I would encourage the staff at the different facilities to provide as much input as they can to Jan and other members of the store committee. Jan, is that it?

Petersen: Pretty much. If anybody's got any questions, comments, I welcome any and all comments. Please shoot me an e-mail or give me a call. I don't know if you all have my cell number. It's 775-778-5478.

Stoldal: Great. Myron, I think I saw your hand go up.

Freedman: Yes, thank you. We too look forward to working with the committee and all of the museums to make this happen. What you characterized as pushback is simply was pointing out all of the various elements that have to be included in the thinking here and part of the process so that, I'm sorry, you saw it as pushback. It was simply an attempt to kind of address all of the things that it will take to make this happen, but we do want to see it happen. And as Seth explains more about on the Shopify element, and

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then figuring out how that works with the state's revenue rules, that's great. I look forward to seeing all of that smoothed out and I, too, want to see all of this online commerce come into the museum system. Thank you.

Stoldal: The Chairman makes a motion to accept Jan's report.

De la Garza: Second.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second to accept Jan's report for the discussion. Public? All those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

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

d) Membership, Anthony Timmins, Chair (members: Markoff, de la Garza)

Stoldal: The next item is 9D. There's also 10C, so there's a chance that some of the conversation could involve both, although we'll see if we can achieve 9D as simply the report on where we stand. And then when we go to 10C, we can talk a little bit more about the way we have to move forward or the opportunity we move forward. 9D, the membership chair is Anthony Timmins. Anthony, please.

Timmins: Mr. Freeman, if you can please make me a presenter or host. I'd like to share the creative we have. And I'll get started on my reports. Mr. Chairman and members of the board, I'm proud to announce that we had a membership meeting. We had good discussion over moving the membership forward for the museum's towards hopefully getting to a concept of a one membership card. If some of you have the America the Beautiful pass that's known for the national park system, the forest lands, that sort of stuff, that's kind of what we want to move towards. That sort of thing where you pay one fee, you have one card, and it's accepted at all museums across the entire state of Nevada. To simplify the process for not only our employees within the museum system, but also those in the museum store who have to make the sale so it's easy to do. And customers can actually check off. This is, Chair Stoldal mentioned yesterday, customers will be able to check off where their funds are allocated to, whether it's the Ely Depot or Carson City Museum, or you know, Las State [ph], whatever it happens to be that they want to support. But that card will be accepted all throughout the entire state of Nevada. It will look like one card. They will all be selling the same card, the same membership card, and it will be kind of on a punch system similar to what

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the America the Beautiful card is. When you purchase it, there's a list of months across the top on the back and simply the purchaser or the person who sells it, they punch the month that it was purchased, and then it's good for one year from that date. That's kind of how it works. It's very simple and simplified. And each card is coded as to color for what type of membership they have, whether it's individual or other, and we're still working on those levels. That's still a work in progress. The picture will rotate out on the face of the card just like the America the Beautiful pass on an annual basis. It will be easy to see this year is whatever, next year is whatever. And I'll show you kind of a sample of my really bad design. I'm not a graphic designer so I'm not going to claim to be a graphic designer, but I really quickly threw together something. And again, we're going to give it back to the folks at Department of Tourism to kind of do a better job than I did. But it's kind of a concept. And it's based on the whole America the Beautiful pass. Let me go ahead and share my screen. And there's three different designs I did. Again, these are just mock designs for discussion only, but it kind of gives you an idea of what we're kind of moving towards or what I suggested the committee moved towards. It would be an image something like this. And I tried to pick designs that would be attractive. This would be the front of [inaudible] -- there we go. The back of the card has more information typical of the America the Beautiful. It has legal stuff, something where people can scan a barcode or something like that. But depending on what type of memberships and we also, by the way, discussed consolidating the memberships according to fewer levels, and how we're going to work that out, but individual would be maybe gray or black. Potentially family would be blue and sustaining and this design happens to be a bighorn sheep. That was one design I recommended. And again, Department of Tourism, hopefully will have better stuff than I do. But here's another one that I recommended. Let me pull this one up for you. We'll share this one so you could see it. Here's a second one. Again, you might know this image. Again, the whole same concept again, color coded, easy and they'll say oh, wait, oh, this year is the skeleton or this year is the fossil. This year is the bighorn sheep. And another option could be something like this. Yes, sure the last designer kind of came up with. This is kind of the third concept and we could choose pictures and we can rotate them out. This year is the railroad or this one is the train or this one is whatever, but we could pick pictures that are kind of unique elements of all different types of art museums across the state and feature one museum every year and rotate it out and it's easy. You just kind of flash the front of your card, for the most part, and they'll be able to determine whether you have a current membership or not based on the picture. Makes a heck of a lot easier for our folks to kind of see. And then the color code will let you know what your certain membership levels are. Still a lot pending for the membership committee. We've got to work through some of the logistics about how these items will

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be sold in the museum stores, and how they will be facilitated from that perspective, as well as what the membership prices will be potentially, and also the membership levels, what they will have for their guests is benefits. That's kind of where we're going. That's where the committee headed. That's where the direction we want to take and we hope to have something to the board very shortly, once we kind of work out some of the membership levels, prices and details. But I think we're making some really good progress and I can't wait to see these beautiful cards out in the marketplace in our museums. That would be my report to the board and to you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for your time and I think we're making great progress in the membership committee. Thank you.

Stoldal: Anthony, thank you very much. I think a big part of the answer is this needs to be online. I think we heard from a couple of folks, directors yesterday, saying handing them a piece of paper fill this out just doesn't work, that it needs to be an online. That also reduces the staffs time to deal with that. And the online is clearly the way the world is going with these types of things. Anthony, thank you very, very much. I would say that at our next board meeting that we're planning on expanding the membership committee. It's a critical responsibility that this board is charged with under the Revised Statutes. And so, I would make a motion. Do we accept Anthony's report? Look for a second.

De la Garza: Second.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second for the discussion of the board. We'll have additional discussion regarding the membership policy coming up into 10C. General public. All those in favor say aye.

Group: Aye.

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

e) East Ely Depot Museum, Doris Dwyer, Chair (members: Markoff, Timmins)

Stoldal: Let's then move on to Item 9E, the East Ely Depot report. I think we did hear a detailed report earlier yesterday on this Doris. Is there anything that you want to add at this point?

Dwyer: No. Other than that, I would like to call a committee meeting of this committee for January. I would like to call Myron later today and arrange that because I was unaware of that community meeting. I would have gone there at my own expense, but I didn't know about it. I'll be calling

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you Myron because I think you've covered pretty much everything that brings it up today.

Stoldal: And Myron, it sounds like there may be a couple of meetings of the different committee and maybe that's possible to just have one meeting on the same day so we aren't scattered all over to make it easier for staff as well. That membership meeting is at 9:00, the East Ely is at 10:00 or something like that. So, you don't have to deal with too many meetings around the board, but thank you, Doris.

10. BOARD POLICY REVIEW DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE UPDATE (for possible action on items a through d)

Stoldal: Let's move on to item a 10, board policy review. The first item is 10A, the museum store policy.

a) Museum Store Policy +

Markoff: Mr. Chairman, I'm with you now.

Stoldal: Welcome back, Dan. Thank you. Good you're here. We are on item number 10, board policy review. And the first one is 10A, the museum store policy. I've looked through my files and was unable to find whether or not the board had established a policy. It has established policies on all other statutory responsibilities. Myron, I think you went through all of the files. Were you able to come up with anything?

Freedman: Myron Freedman for the record. I was surprised. I did see that there were museum store policy documents in the files, but there was no information on those documents. It seems like it was something that meant to be developed and then somehow got passed over. I think this will be fresh territory for the board.

Stoldal: I think that we will part of Jan's responsibility and as you look at the museum store, it's a couple three or four elements within the statutory requirement. And that includes everything from establishing the store to making sure the merchandise is appropriate. There's some language that's in there, so that could be the beginning of the policy development.

b) Private Funds Budgeting, Expenditure, & General Control Policy & Procedure +

Stoldal: Next item is item 10B, private fund budgeting and expenditure and general control policy. You should all have a copy of that. Myron sent out that in a

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separate e-mail. It is, quite frankly, the longest policy that we have, the most detailed, because it's one of the most important things that this board has responsibility over, and that's a private fund. Mr. Ostrovsky, I'm going to toss it over to you. If there's any suggestions or changes or walk us through the policy and procedure.

Ostrovsky: At our last board meeting, I raised the issue and I think the board had discussed it on occasion, whether or not we wanted to continue to have two separate funds, one for the restrictive donations and the other for general museum purposes. Since that time, I've had some discussions with staff about how that money is mapped back into the funding cycle for the budgets. And although I originally thought it was a good idea, I don't have that feeling any longer. It creates a lot of accounting problems for staff if those dedicated funds are commingled with our other funds, and then back through the budget office. I am not recommending we make that change. However, it did in that process discover that funds got quite a bit of money in it as we reported earlier, millions of dollars. There are what I will call them ending fund balances. I'll take One Sky, for example. We were a lot of dedicated contributions to that program and we are sitting on a balance of unexpended money, which is restricted. I don't know how much money is there. It would take a request of staff over the next three months, six months, however long it takes, to go back and examine those contributions, determine what the total expenditures were that applied to those. And it's my suggestion that we have some kind of policy that if the money is not expended by a certain date or the completion of a program, that the board actually write the donor and say you donated \$100,000, we spent \$96,000 on the dedicated item that you selected, there's a \$4,000 balance, tell us what you would like to do. And our recommendation, of course, I think would be move it to the private funds budget for general purposes of the museums because I think that way we could reduce the balance in those accounts, get them into the managed account where we can get a better return and still provide protection for the money that's there. For example, if you look at the money that's given to the Marjorie Russell account, that account gets used. They are constantly drawing down funding that was given for that collection, but One Sky and some others, other the fact, if we put that exhibit on the road or we introduced it again in future years, that money is going to languish there for a long time with very low returns and not be able to apply it for other programming needs. I don't know how the donors will look at that. Maybe we could make a policy at the time that donation is made, suggesting that we would move it there eventually, any ending fund balance, but I think Mr. Chairman the board ought to discuss that and decide. There's a risk that I suppose the person made the donation could ask for the money back. We don't have any procedure to do that. But certainly, I think it was given with good intentions for the museum to use. And if a letter from the board said,

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you know, we're thanking you again for your donation, here's what we expanded on that fund. What would you like us to do with the remaining balance? We would like to move it to our unrestricted accounts.

Stoldal: Bob, the only reason that money is over there is a board policy.

Ostrovsky: That's correct.

Stoldal: There's nothing that says that the board policy could not be expanded to say that any of those balances that you're talking about, we get a list of those and we move them back into the general private fund account. First of all, they're going to get a better return. But also, it doesn't mean if there is a time that that money needs to be used for that particular account. It could be withdrawn out of that. I don't think we need more than just a listing of those things and the advice would come from Myron about which ones would fall in that category. I don't think its millions of dollars. Probably tens of thousands of dollars, but that money could be moved over and then Myron and the directors would have the option to use that additional funding from the interest and whatever. Myron, what are your thoughts on that?

Freedman: This is an interesting idea. I think it bears examination. It's a little fraught when you consider that the donor selected a particular museum to donate their money to. And then if at some point the board is stepping in to then say, unspent funds are then going to be subject to be moved into a more general account to be used at the discretion, I think that has to be stayed.

Stoldal: I think it shall stay into that museum's account.

Freedman: I think this is something I'll have to look carefully at. Maybe Bob Ostrovsky, you and I could talk again about it and I guess get a little bit more information on the mechanics here that you're suggesting.

Ostrovsky: That's fine. I'd be happy to work with Myron and come back with some language that we could add to the policy if we want. I hear what the chairman is saying. Just because we move the money still doesn't mean it can't be earmarked for that specific category for which the donor indicated. It would just give us a chance to get a better return. And again, I think part of that is if we have staff run down through those accounts over whatever period of time. There's no hurry here. It'd give us some idea what we're talking about, how many dollars we could move over? Once we do that, then Myron and I can come back and make a recommendation to change the policy for investment purposes. I wouldn't make it now. The existing policy is working fine and I don't see any changes that need to be made in

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the policy that was distributed. Other than this question, which Myron and I and staff can work on and come back to the committee.

Stoldal: Just to make sure I'm clear, that the money wouldn't go into some general fund. It would stay within the particular museum that got there in the first place. I think it's the only fair way to do that though.

Freedman: Got it. Thank you.

Stoldal: I would look for a motion to renew this policy.

Ostrovsky: I will make a motion to renew the policy after review of the private funds, budget and expenditure, general control policy and procedures as distributed.

De la Garza: Second.

Stoldal: We have a motion. We have a second to discussion of the board. General public?

Schmitter: Bob, this is Michelle. Can I make a comment?

Stoldal: Please.

Schmitter: Under general control procedure, it says chief for the budget division of the Department of Administration for his information. Can we do his/her on that since we're-

Stoldal: What page are you on, but the answer of course is yes. What page are you on?

Schmitter: It's the last page of this policy under general control. So, it's 1, 2, 3, 4, the fifth bullet point.

Stoldal: Robert, do you want to amend your motion to have that change or is there a generic term that should be used?

Timm: The gender-neutral term would be done there, so instead of his or her, there is a singular and it's all inclusive for any gender identity.

Stoldal: Sounds good to me.

Ostrovsky: I would modify my motion to make that change in the policy using gender neutral term wherever possible. And particularly in this section.

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De la Garza: I amend my second.

Stoldal: We have a motion and we have a second. Further discussion by the board? General public? All those in favor say, aye.

Group: Aye.

Stoldal: Those opposed?

Markoff: Abstain.

Stoldal: Harry, do we need a reason for abstention?

Ward: Yes, I would say, for the record, a brief reason. We don't have to go into details.

Markoff: What do you need a brief reason for?

Ward: Because that's what the open meeting law says. We cannot use an abstention as a yes or a no. It's at the tip of my tongue in regards to what the statute says but, yes, a board member should give a brief reason as to why they are abstaining from the vote, whether it's because they have a conflict, whether it's related to a family member or something of that nature. Under the open meeting law, we're supposed to give full disclosure.

Markoff: I think that's ridiculous but anyhow, I'll give you my reason. I don't think we should be confined to problems like gender neutral stuff. It's just ridiculous and that's it.

Ward: And that's sufficient.

Stoldal: The motion passes with the Chair voting in favor and a note of one abstention.

c) Board of Museums & History Membership Policy +

Stoldal: Let's move on to item number 10c, the Board of Museums and our membership policy. Anthony, we want to start with you as far as some additional thoughts.

Timmons: Honestly, Mr. Chairman, at this time I don't see any changes to this policy. We're kind of at a status update until we can make the recommended ideas and get the ideas that we need as to make it. It may be a June 22 or a September 22 kind of thing, I don't think these only can be reviewed

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on an annual basis. I imagine if we decide we want to move it up a little bit earlier, I assumed they can be and I'll ask the administrator on that one. But right now, I don't see any changes to this at all Mr. Chairman.

Stoldal: I won't disagree and we can put this on any agenda the board feels like but this is so outdated on so many levels. The category of memberships is completely outdated and this idea that every full and then part-time employee of Cultural Affairs and Tourism is an automatic member, I think we need to understand, have some more discussion about that. Then, there's the issue of the Nevada Historical Society quarterly. That's a bullet point under membership benefits. Right now \$20 of the \$35 membership goes directly to the Historical Society, that's going to change. We need to look and make sure that all the benefits as your committee has done, make sure that every museum is consistent with the benefits that they offer. And then there's the issue of the newsletter. I think one of the benefits that should be listed here is that H Museum provides a digital newsletter rather than a printed one. The cost of printing as we've seen with the historical society quarterly is a real challenge and so money could be saved in just making this digital. I'm going to suggest and then you take a look at the second page where it deals with the railroads. Those things are completely out of date. The board has just passed a policy regarding that. My question here is, is Anthony and maybe to Harry, we can't accept this policy as it stands. I don't want to, it's so outdated. I'm not sure what the process would be to move forward on that. I know Anthony you're going to have another special meeting to cover all these topics including raising the individual fees for a membership and the family fees and he's narrowing it down to the three categories. How would we accept an outdated policy without knowing how we're going to update this? Anthony?

Timmons: I recommend that we accept this policy because as it stands right now, we do have a lot of changes coming up and as you recommended and brought up, Mr. Chairman, I agree with every change you want to do. We're just not ready to implement those. I see we've got to be prepared to implement those policies and decide what those policies are from the committee and approval by the board before we make a change in those policies. As it stands today, there's no changes I would recommend to this policy but I foresee some coming up in the next year.

Stoldal: Then are you making a motion to approve the policy as it stands?

Timmons: First of all, I want to check with Harry. Anything good there?

Ward: That's fine, especially with the explanation and it's on the record as to what the committee will be doing. So, I have no problem with that.

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- Timmons: Thank you. I would make a motion to approve the Board of Museums & History membership policy as they currently stands, understanding that there will be possible changes, potential changes coming up in the New Year. But as of today, I recommend that the board approve and I would make a motion to approve the policy as it stands today.
- Markoff: [Inaudible] with that.
- Stoldal: We have a second with Dan Markoff. I saw a couple of hands. Jen [ph], did you have a hand upward or is that going to be the second?
- Unknown: I was going to second along with Mercedes.
- Stoldal: We have a motion, we have a second. Further discussion of the board? Myron?
- Freedman: Thank you, Chair. I think you said earlier you wanted to put more members on this committee?
- Stoldal: Yes.
- Freedman: And if we're having a major meeting coming up in January, is that something we can accomplish before that?
- Stoldal: Can I add members during a committee public meeting, if it's the first item on the agenda or is that be a full board?
- Ward: This matter is on the agenda regarding the membership policy. I don't think it's a far stretch for you Mr. Chair to appoint or have people request to be put on the membership. I don't think the board has to take formal action to put them on but just an acknowledgment that these people maybe included or have an interest and then show up at the meeting.
- Stoldal: Myron, did that answer our question? Thank you. We were in motion. Those in favor say aye.
- Group: Aye.
- Stoldal: Those opposed? Motion carries unanimously where the Chair voting with those in attendance. Thank you all for the work, the staff and the committee members. New Year, lots of energy and lots of activity, it sounds like. I counted 15 different committee meetings, Myron. Is that your count?

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Freedman: I lost count.

d) Investment Policy +

Stoldal: Let's move on to the next item which is, Bob, let's just stay with you for a second and go to item 10d, the investment policy. Again, Myron sent out these and you should have a copy of that. It's titled Investment Policy. We last renewed this in November of 2019 as indicated in the upper right-hand corner.

Ostrovsky: I reviewed this policy. I do not find any reason or cause to suggest any changes. We've been following this policy. Since its inception, our investment manager on an annual basis verifies to us that he's following this policy. And I see no indication that this policy has not been followed as stated and therefore, I would support that we re-adopt the investment policy as distributed.

Stoldal: Do we have a second to that motion?

Markoff: I'll second it.

Stoldal: We have a motion and we have a second. A question, Bob, when we have the report at our next meeting in March, would there be any need to have this item as well, if we get a report and there may be some recommended changes? The question is whether we should put this additionally following that presentation.

Ostrovsky: I suppose but I can't foresee any need. I think I would put on the agenda an item that says one, we get the investment report and two, we should get a written verification from our investment managers, whoever they maybe that they are following this policy [inaudible]. That should be our main agenda.

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

Group: Aye.

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

Markoff: Mr. Chairman?

Stoldal: Yes?

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- Markoff: Has the discussion about the Great Western Steam come up yet?
- Stoldal: Yes, and we decided not to give them the \$98,000. Instead, we decided to give them \$122,000.
- Markoff: I'll vote in favor of that and put me down there.
- Stoldal: Yes, that was the first thing we dealt with and Anthony Timmons made the motion to cover the other costs.
- Markoff: Can I have my vote registered in favor of that?
- Stoldal: I think the transcription indicates your support of that and that will be.

11. PRIVATE FUNDS BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (CURRENT YEAR) (For possible action)

- a) Changes approved by the Division Administrator**
- b) Changes requested from the Board over \$5,000.**

- Stoldal: Let's move on then to 11, private fund budget adjustments. I see none listed. Is that correct?
- Freedman: That is correct.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (Discussion only)

- Ward: I don't know if we skipped over agenda item number 12, that would be Board member comment on non-agendized items, so if we could just return to 12, I don't know if my notes reflect, we did that and then maybe we could go to public comment once more briefly and then adjourn. But if we have done 12, then that's fine, we can adjourn.
- Stoldal: No, I skipped over that, so let's go back to item number 12, Board member comment. At this point, you can talk about non-agendized items. Is there anything that the Board wants to talk about? Hopefully, that's within the purview of the Board as opposed to any political or policy safe and sets [ph] around the national level. I would just like to say a thank you to Myron and the entire staff. It's been a real challenge for the last year from Lost City all the way to all the works that's being done in Ely to a set [ph], make that the state is following through which it has done on any levels in Ely but it had been a real challenge with the lack of staff and Myron, thank you for all the work that you have done. And I know you're focused on

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Boulder City, you're going to come down there. Did you announce the new director? I think you did.

Freedman: We did, then Dan gave some background on him, it's Dr. Chris McMann [ph] and yeah, so he'll start January 3rd in Boulder and we'll be having a meeting probably the following week to bring him up to speed on the project and introduce him to people down there who are participating. So, I know Mr. Markoff and you, Mr. Stoldal will be interested in getting together and so we'll be arranging those things.

Stoldal: Great, alright.

Markoff: You will be sending out a notice of when that's going to be?

Freedman: Right, I need to organize the days because there's many things we're trying to accomplish.

Markoff: I understand that. You're just going to send out, when it will be?

Freedman: The 11th and 12th of January. Mark your calendars and I'll send out a request for meetings and things like that.

13. FUTURE MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Recommendations by Board members regarding topics for future agenda items for the Board can be made under this agenda item. Discussion on proposals for future Board items shall be limited to whether such proposed items are within the purview of the Board. No discussion regarding the substance of any proposed agenda item shall occur.

Stoldal: Let's move on to item 13, future Museum Board agenda items, recommendation by Board members regarding topic for future agenda items where the board can be made under this agenda item. Discussion on proposals for future Board items shall be limited to whether those proposed items are within the purview of the Board. No discussion regarding the substance of any proposed agenda item shall occur. Items beyond me [ph], the next full Board agenda.

Markoff: I would suggest that we get an update, I'm sure it would happen anyhow, but an update on the progress of the museums at Boulder City.

Stoldal: Any particular, just broadly or-

Markoff: No, the Railroad Museum.

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Stoldal: No, but I mean any particular update on the Rail Explorers or new director or just update generally?

Markoff: Just update generally.

Stoldal: Alright. Anthony?

Timmons: I have two items I would like to have added to the future board agenda. First one is I would like an accounting of the projects that are funded in the restricted budget as to where the funds are, what they're accounted for. Maybe there's museums out there, there's fund sitting there for, I don't know, artifact curation or something that they don't even know that the funds are sitting there in the restricted budget that they can access and use. I'd like to get a listing of what funds are sitting there and for what. You know, is it for Native American [inaudible], is it for fossil curation, whatever it is. That would be the first one. The second one is I would like to get an accounting from the administrator for the last 6 to 12 months on this item regarding deposit, audit, and control issues, making sure deposits are made in a timely basis. I would like to bring that up. I think that is a major issue that the board needs to discuss. Again, I'm asking for an accounting from the administrator for the last 6 to 12 months of all deposits and whether those deposits were made on a timely basis because I think the board needs to be on top of this.

Stoldal: Jen [ph], anything on the next agenda which I think is March?

Unknown: We will be having a store meeting with Doris, Sarah and you and Seth before the [inaudible]. In the meantime, before the March meeting, we'll report back to all of you what our progress has been made because there will be progress.

Stoldal: The store committee meeting that will be on. Doris, anything additional?

Dwyer: No.

Stoldal: Robert, other than we're going to have an investment report I think in, normally in March?

Ostrovsky: That's correct. We will have an investment report in March and hopefully Anthony's request for learning more about the dedicated fund balances, hopefully all that would be worked out, so we can discuss it again at the same time.

Stoldal: Great, okay. Mercedes, anything?

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De la Garza: No.

Stoldal: Dan, anything? You mentioned to having an updated report on Boulder City, anything else?

Markoff: No, that's all I can think of right now. I just want to know the status basically of how the construction of the new museum is going. With the plans and architects and everything else.

Stoldal: It's going to be a busy 90 days. Michelle [ph], any thoughts for the next meeting [inaudible]? We want to make sure this is on the agenda.

Unknown: Just to tag off some of what Dan was saying about, again, I love to see the design and just maybe we could discuss it at the next meeting, that will be great.

Stoldal: Great. Myron, some of the material that's already available, I think you indicated you're just going to make that the initial report available and there's a whole new report is going to be developed based on the bond funding money. So, there is a report right now, maybe that could just be sent out to knowing full well it's going to be updated.

Freedman: Will do.

Stoldal: Great. Thank you. Is there anything Myron, we would like to make sure that the board does between now and then or want to make sure it's on the agenda?

Freedman: I don't have agenda items right now. I might advise the board to go back to the budgets that you approved. You have those documents, the ones that were approved in June and if you go to the last part of that document, you'll see the restricted funds and the explanations of how they're used and that sort of thing. So, you'll have some background information there.

Stoldal: And that's a private fund budget that the board reviewed, had some changes and then adopted, you're right, in June.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION: Public comment is welcomed by the Board. 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. 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.

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Stoldal: Beyond that, we'll go to the last item, which is 14, public comment and discussion. Public comment is of course welcomed by the Board. Because of time considerations, it could be limited up to 3 minutes. Speakers are urged to avoid repetition. And pursuant to Governor's policy 006, we will take public comment and again but without limitation either submitted by a mail or email or telephone conversations. Anybody received anything that we should include in the public comment area?

Unknown: No.

Stoldal: Seeing and hearing none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Stoldal: It is now 10:27, unless there is something else that is non-agendized discussion by the Board, we'll raise the gavel. Anthony?

Timmons: I think Harry said we had to go back to public comment one more time?

Stoldal: We'll go back to public comments and make sure that is there any public comment, we're at item 14, public comment and discussion. Again, if there's anything either on the telephone or Zoom or email or text or Instagram or Twitter? Seeing and hearing none, then we are adjourned. Thank you all for the two days. It's very productive, lots of good details and information and don't forget Lost City.