



MEETING MINUTES
NEVADA BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY
JUNE 8, 2023
Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
309 S. Valley View Blvd (Las Vegas Springs Preserve)
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Doris Dwyer*
E'sha Hoferer*
Daniel Markoff
Courtney Mooney
Robert Ostrovsky
Janet Petersen*
Michelle Schmitter*
Seth Schorr
Anthony Timmons
* participation via teleconference

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mercedes de la Garza

STAFF PRESENT

Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General*
Brenda Scolari, Director, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Francine Burge, Public Relations Manager, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs*
Rebecca Palmer, State Historic Preservation Officer*
Myron Freedman, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums and History
Daphne DeLeon, Administrative Services Officer
Hollis Gillespie, Director, Nevada State Museum Las Vegas
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum
Daniel Thielen, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum Carson City*
Sean Pitts, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum East Ely*
Josh Bonde, Director, Nevada State Museum Carson City
Catherine Magee, Director, Nevada Historical Society*
* participation via teleconference

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Stoldal

1. *Serving as acting Chair, Vice-Chair Robert Ostrovsky called for the meeting recording to begin.*
2. *Vice-Chair Ostrovsky called the meeting to order.*

3. *The Vice-Chair confirmed the meeting was posted in accordance with NRS 241, per Administrator Myron Freedman.*
4. *The Vice-Chair asked for roll to be taken and a quorum was confirmed.*
5. *The Vice-Chair took agenda Item 5: Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.
Member Schorr moved to nominate Anthony Timmons for Chair. Member Petersen seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.
Member Petersen moved to nominate Member Mercedes de la Garza for Vice-Chair. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.*
6. Board announcements and meeting logistics: Proclamation from Governor Lombardo Chair (Information only).
 - a. Proclamation from Governor Lombardo regarding Robert Stoldal.
[Chair Timmons took Item 6a upon the arrival of Mr. Stoldal, after Agenda Item 13c1.] A representative from the office of Governor Lombardo read the proclamation of appreciation for Mr. Stoldal's significant contributions to the Board, as well as his many years of service to his community and the state of Nevada.
7. Public comment announcement. Chair. Public comment is welcomed by the Board.
No public comment was given.
8. Acceptance of minutes (all items for possible action.) Chair. (Full transcripts available at nvmuseums.org).
 - a. March 9, 2023 Board Meeting summary of motions.
Member Ostrovsky moved to approve as presented. Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.
 - b. March 24, 2023 Board Meeting summary of motions.
The Chair took item 8b: March 24, 2023 Board meeting summary of motions. Member Petersen moved to approve as presented. Member Ostrovsky seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.
 - c. May 16, 2023 Board followed by Finance Committee summary of motions.
The Chair took item 8c: May 16, 2023 Board meeting summary of motions. Member Ostrovsky moved to approve as presented. Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.
 - d. May 26, 2023 Finance Committee summary of motions.
The Chair took 8d (summary of motions) May 26 Finance Comm. minutes. Member Ostrovsky moved to approve as presented, Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.
9. Review and confirm dates for Board meetings in 2023. Chair (for possible action.)
Chair Timmons conveyed upcoming Board meetings Sept 14, 2023 in Ely; December 7-8, 2023 in Reno, at the Nevada Historical Society.
10. Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Rebecca Palmer, Administrator (Information only, unless noted otherwise.)

a. SHPO Report

The Chair took item 10a: Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Report. Rebecca Palmer, Administrator, updated that the position of National State Registry Coordinator is vacant. Member Ostrovsky asked about the proposed sale of bonds. Administrator Palmer stated the CIP funds approved by the Nevada Legislature will be in the amount of \$3 million for the biennium.

11. Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs -Brenda Scolari, Director. (Information only, unless noted otherwise.)

a. Department Update

The Chair took item 11a: Department Update. Director Scolari discusses SB477, which passed during the 82nd legislative session. SB477 is a restructuring, executive bill with four highlights:

- 1. Absorbs NV Magazine staff into the Travel Nevada Marketing team. The magazine will have three online editions and one print edition.*
- 2. SB477 allows for hiring the new position, Deputy of Tourism.*
- 3. Creation of an Administrative Fund.*
- 4. SB477 will remove ex-officio, non-voting members from the Commission on Tourism.*

Director Scolari also noted AB516 that separated the Indian Commission & Stewart Cultural Center from the Department, effective July 1, 2024.

b. Marketing and Communications Report. Francine Burge, Public Relations Manager

Francine Burge, PR Manager for the Department of Cultural Affairs, updated on the hiring of herself and Samantha Szesciorka. Current priorities are to develop advertising contracts and increase outreach in the rural areas towards increased membership. Ongoing strategic planning will align the marketing and communication plans for cohesiveness of the brand.

12. Administrator's Report. Myron Freedman, DMH Administrator. (Information only, unless noted otherwise.)

a. The 82nd Legislature: legislation update

Board is updated that SB186, pertaining to transfer of DMH property in Ely, did not make it out of Committee.

b. NAGPRA Quarterly Update. (For possible action.)

Administrator Freedman updated the Board on behalf of Dr. Gene Hattori. Three ancestors were repatriated since the last NAGPRA update.

c. Capital Projects Update.

Administrator Freedman updated the Board that bond funds would not be realized until early 2024, with the project starting somewhere in late 2024, which anticipates earliest completion in fall of 2026.

d. 711 South Seventh St. Property Update. DAG Harry Ward. (For possible action.)

The property was donated by will, but the beneficiary can use the property until their demise. A letter was sent to confirm any changes in the estate, but nothing new has occurred. This item will be on the agenda once a year for updates in status.

e. Review of proposed fee schedule for all Train Rides, regular and fund raising, for FY 2024. Administrator. (For possible action.)

The Chair took Item 12e: Review of proposed fee schedule for all train rides for FY24. Proposed changes: Adult Train Ride Fee \$10.00 and Child Train Ride Fee \$5.00 at the Nevada State Railroad Museum Carson City, effective July 1, 2023. Member Markoff moved to adopt the price change for adults and children as presented. Member Mooney seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

13. Standing Committees (All items for possible action.)

a. Finance Committee. Robert Ostrovsky, Chair.

1. Morgan Stanley Report

2. Review and recommendations and approval for FY 24 MDTF Budgets

Member Markoff expressed concern over the effectiveness/ROI for conference travel and fees. Additionally, concerns over the appeal of motorcars (vs. steam engines) for upcoming expansion of Roundup/Steam Up! events. Director Scolari discussed the benefits of Professional Development (PD) for participants. Administrator Freedman explained the benefits to the DMH and notes the cap of \$2500/individual (\$5k total) to ensure no excess expenditures. Member Dwyer expressed support for PD.

The Chair took Item 13a2: Review and recommendations and approval for FY '24 MDTF Budgets. Member Ostrovsky moved for approval as presented. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried (7 yea, 1 nay).

b. Membership Committee. Anthony Timmins, Chair.

Chair Timmons assigned Vice-Chair de la Garza to assume Chair of the Membership Committee. Administrator Freedman suggests the Committee consider possible action regarding expenditures such as laminated cards, etc. Deputy AG, Harry Ward, confirms the Board can act once the Committees have discussed items on their respective agendas and bring those items to the Board.

c. Museum Store. Jan Petersen, Chair.

1. Online Museum Store Update. Daphne DeLeon.

Administrative Services Officer, Daphne DeLeon, stated the online store will be ready in July. Members discuss the difficulty of credit card sales when Wi-Fi isn't available outside the physical store.

14. Q3 Museum Reports, Chair and Museum Directors (Jan-Mar 2023)

a. Lost City Museum Report

Director Tracey Sprague updated that bus tour numbers have been down due to Covid19 and the Valley Fire inhibiting group visits. School group numbers have been improving as Covid19 concerns subside. There are currently no metrics reflecting an overall revenue decline attributed to the overall reduction in bus groups. Additionally, Director Sprague confirmed that jewelry sales are still the leading category in the store.

Director Freedman informs the Board that DMH won't have funding for busses and suggests exploring a "champion" in the next legislative session.

1. Deaccession Request Memo 1 (for possible action.)

The Chair took Item 14a1: Deaccession memo 1. Director Sprague provided a history of the items from Lake Mead, originally excavated in the 1920s. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

2. Deaccession Request Memo 2 (for possible action.)

The Chair took Item 14a2: Deaccession memo 2. Member Schorr moved for approval as presented. Member Mooney seconded. Motion carried (6 yea, 2 nay, 1 abstention).

3. Acceptance of Docent council Donation (for possible action)

The Chair took Item 14a3: Acceptance of Docent Council Donation. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Dwyer seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

b. Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas Report

1. Acceptance of Innova Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

Director Hollis Gillespie updated the Board about the overall strong quarter and progress of repair work being completed. Positive membership trends should improve as staffing vacancies are filled. Interest in restricted donations has increased and Director Gilliespie encouraged Members to attend the Liberace exhibit, opening June 23rd.

The Chair took Item 14b1: Donation Restricted - Innova. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Dwyer seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

c. Nevada State Museum in Carson City

Director Josh Bonde updated on strong attendance numbers surpassing previous two years.

1. Approval to pay FY22 invoice (for possible action.)

The Chair took Item 14c1: FY22 INV Wild Republic. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

2. Acceptance of Brown Elementary Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

3. Acceptance of Anonymous Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

4. Acceptance of Keres Consulting Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

5. Acceptance of Liberty Baptist Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

6. Acceptance of Wyrick Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

The Chair took agenda items 14c2, 14c3, 14c4, 14c5 and 14c6 as a single motion. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

d. Ely Railroad Depot Museum

Director Sean Pitts noted the success of the 3rd Annual Bristlecone Bricks and Train Show, including a Lego STEM event for students. Director Pitts updated that SB186 was defeated, meaning the Ely buildings in question remain properties of the State.

e. Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City

Dan Thielen provided Boulder City Museum updates on behalf of Director MacMahon. The new blower for the Fairbanks locomotive is under contract. The museum is working to recover items from the test site and finalizing contract(s) for the new rail bike company.

1. MOU agreement with UNLV Engineering to utilize track for research

Chair Timmons discloses relationship as instructor with UNLV (NSHE).

Dan Thielen updated on expediting track inspections and recommendations for repairs. The UNLV collaboration is symbiotic.

The Chair took Item 14e2: MOU agreement with UNLV. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

2. Reauthorize funds from Magnusson Trust to move Test Site artifacts (for possible action.)
Director Freedman updated on the intent to reauthorize \$50k to move artifacts from the Nevada test site.

The Chair took Item 14e1: Reauthorize funds – Magnusson Trust. Member Schorr moved to approve as presented. Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried without dissent, with the Chair voting in favor.

f. Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City

Director Dan Thielen shared the strong attendance and sales numbers YTD. Q3 store sales have exceeded targets reflecting an overall strong year of store sales and attendance trends. Director Thielen addressed concerns about capturing attendance figures when wristbands are utilized. Legislative updates pertaining to SB186 (Ely) and efforts to build relationships with legislators interested in supporting the museums were successes of the 82nd NV Legislature.

g. Nevada Historical Society Report

1. Q Editing Services Contract

Director Catherine Magee updated on new administrative assistant, Tiffany Jones. Ms. Jones is also the store manager and is involved with budgets and membership. New docents are being brought on with the increase in school attendance. Ms. Magee expresses concerns about bus funding for visitors.

The Chair took Item 14g1: Q Editing Services Contract. Member Dwyer moved to approve as presented. Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members voting in favor, including the Chair.

2. Acceptance of Little Restricted Donation (for possible action.)

The Chair took Item 14g2: Donation Restricted – Little. Member Markoff moved to approve as presented. Member Schorr seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members voting in favor, including the Chair.

15. Private funds budget adjustments-Current year. Chair and Staff (all items for possible action.)

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

16. Board member comment on non-agenda items (discussion only).

17. Future museum board agenda items (discussion only). Recommendations by Board members regarding topics for future agenda items for the Board.

Board requests for September 16th, 2023 agenda items:

- *Strategic Planning for the Board*
- *Updates on deaccession*
- *Palisade commuter car repair*

18. Public Comment Announcement. Board Chair. (For information only.)

No public comment was given.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Timmons adjourned the meeting.