



MEETING MINUTES
Board of Museums and History
June 20, 2024

This meeting was an online meeting via MS TEAMS.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Timmons, Chair
Mercedes de la Garza, Vice Chair
Bert Bedeau
Nathan Harper
Dora Martinez
Courtney Mooney
Janet Petersen
Michelle Schmitter
Mark Slaughter

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Rochanne Downs
Daniel Markoff
Seth Schorr

STAFF PRESENT

Brenda Scolari, Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Mary Ellen Kawchack, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Francine Burge, Marketing & Communications Manager, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Ron Webster, Chief Technology Officer, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Office of the Attorney General
Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History
Daphne DeLeon, Administrative Services Officer, Nevada Division of Museums & History
Rebecca Palmer, Administrator, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
Jean-Guy T. Dube, National and State Register Coordinator, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
Robin Reed, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Josh Bonde, Director, Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Hollis Gillespie, Director, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Christopher MacMahon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
Catherine Magee, Director, Nevada Historical Society
Sean Pitts, Director, East Ely Railroad Depot Museum
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum
Kelly Brant, Coin Press & Membership Programs Manager, Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Anna Camp, Anthropology Tribal Liaison/NAGPRA Coordinator, Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Kristina Hornback, Curator of Education, Nevada Historical Society
Adam Michalski, Curator, Nevada State Railroad Museum Carson City
Mike Malone, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Division of Museums & History

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Chelsey Brice, Estipona Group
Kyle Brice, Estipona Group

1. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Chair of Nevada Board of Museums and History and Staff.

Chair Anthony Timmons called for the start of the meeting recording.

2. Call meeting to order. Board Chair.

Chair Timmons called the meeting to order.

3. Call for confirmation that the meeting was properly posted. Board Chair and Staff.

Mike Malone, AAll, confirmed the meeting was posted in accordance with open meeting law.

4. Call for the roll call of Board and determination of quorum. Board Chair and Staff.

Chair Timmons called for roll. Mike Malone took roll and confirmed there was a quorum for the meeting, with three excused absences.

5. Public comment announcement. Board Chair (information only).

6. Acceptance of minutes. Board Chair and Staff. (all items for possible action)

a. March 1, 2024 Board Meeting summary +

Vice Chair de la Garza moved to approve; member Petersen seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

b. April 2, 2024 Museum Store and Marketing & Technology Joint Committee Meeting

Member Petersen moved to approve; member Slaughter seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

c. May 7, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting transcript

Vice Chair de la Garza moved to approve; member Slaughter seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

d. June 3, 2024 Museum Store and Marketing and Technology Committees Joint Meeting transcript.

Member Petersen moved to approve; member Slaughter seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

7. Board Announcements and Meeting Dates. Board Chair.

a. Tentative 2024 Public Meeting Dates (for possible action, subject to change)

September 13 – Laxalt Building, Carson City, NV

Vice Chair de la Garza moved to hold the September 13 Board meeting at the Nevada Historical Society; Member Petersen seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

December 6 – Nevada Historical Society, Reno, NV

Member Petersen moved to hold the December 6, 2024, Board meeting at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City; member Slaughter seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

b. 2025 Meeting Dates and Locations

Discussion pertaining to 2025 meeting dates and locations was tabled until the September 13th Board meeting.

8. Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Rebecca Palmer, Administrator. (All items are for possible action unless noted otherwise.)

a. Board Request: Discussion on materials pertaining to the review requirements for the Board of Museums and History as they relate to SHPO nominations.

Member Bedeau stated the nature of his request in seeking additional materials for reviewing nominations.

Chair Timmons suggested the Building & Grounds Committee could review and provide insights to the larger Board.

Member Bedeau stated he will include that recommendation as part of the Committee's mandate. He also clarified that the Lulac nomination informed his request and additional materials aren't typically needed for each nomination.

Administrator Palmer posed the question to Deputy Attorney General (DAG), Harry Ward, if a subcommittee reviewing the materials in advance would constitute ex parte communication.

DAG Ward stated that if a subcommittee is formed, they are subject to open meeting law. There shouldn't be any prohibition to form a subcommittee under the statute of regulations.

Administrator Palmer expressed a concern regarding timing, due to the responsibility of SHPO to respond to requests within a certain timeframe, as well as presenting nominations to the Board in a timely fashion. She also communicated that the information provided for the nomination has been the standard and if the Board would like to make a change, the Board meeting would be the place for those discussions.

Vice Chair de la Garza recommended the Buildings and Grounds Committee preview the details of nominations and make the determination regarding pertinent materials for the Board's deliberations during regular meeting.

No action was taken.

b. Staff report +

Administrator Palmer introduced National and State Register Coordinator, Jean-Guy Dube. Mr. Dube provided an overview of his experience and interests. Administrator Palmer thanked Member Petersen for her efforts nominating the G.S. Garcia Saddle and Harness Shop. Administrator Palmer shared that a bronze plaque has been purchased, recognizing the historical significance of the site.

c. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the LULAC Multi-Purpose Senior Center in Las Vegas, Clark County. +

Administrator Palmer informed the Board that the Lulac Multi-purpose Senior Center, Las Vegas, nomination was funded by an under-represented community grant by the city of Las Vegas with the Historic Preservation Commission of Las Vegas. The nomination was prepared by a contractor for the City of Las Vegas and SHPO was not involved with the decision to prepare the nomination.

Administrator Palmer forwarded the nomination in advance to the National Park Service because the State of Nevada has not yet had a property less than 50 years in age significant under criterion A. Administrator Palmer worked closely with the national registry reviewer to ensure the nomination would meet the national registry requirements. Chair Timmons expressed his gratitude, as a former member of the Board of Directors of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, for the nomination being put forward.

Member Bedeau expressed appreciation for the study but expressed some concerns whether the nomination satisfied reached the level of significance and requirements for certain criterion. Member Bedeau felt the nomination was problematic due to the period of significance and omissions of pertinent information regarding the significance of the building.

Member Bedeau moved to table the nomination for consideration at a future meeting when the City of Las Vegas provided additional information. Member Bedeau also offered his assistance to the city as well as the SHPO staff. Mooney seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority of members present, with Chair and Member Petersen abstaining.

d. Discussion on possible historical marker for Tupac Shakur; revised text. +

Administrator Palmer resubmitted the request after the author updated the text. The original request was received by the Board in December, with the Board requesting updated text at that time.

Vice Chair de la Garza conveyed she had pursued an informal survey to determine interest in a marker and expressed concerns the interest in a marker did not rise to the level necessary to commit State resources and funds.

Member Bedeau communicated the distinction between Mr. Shakur's significant artistic contributions and personal life and stated he erred on the side of the artistic contributions.

Member Harper stated he also solicited input and believes the musical contributions are significant enough to warrant a marker and inquired as to the ownership of the property.

Administrator Palmer shared that the location has not been pursued at this time pending review by the Board.

Chair Timmons communicated that he did a general review of existing markers and found there aren't many contemporary examples. He suggested a broader approach toward more contemporary markers and would like to determine requirements and other criteria for such markers. Vice Chair de la Garza echoed the question and Administrator Palmer stated that the program has evolved, but has no dedicated funding. Ongoing maintenance currently falls to State Parks, but SHPO has no dedicated funding available. Administrator Palmer communicated there is a process, but suggested it would be helpful to review that process in light of the challenges she conveyed with regard to funding, staffing and maintenance concerns.

9. Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Brenda Scolari, Director.

a. Department Update. Brenda Scolari

Director Scolari updated that the Department is reviewing position requests and one of the positions focused on development is the Community Partnership Manager. The position title is subject to revision. The human resource staff is assessing and reviewing classifications for every employee ahead of the 2025 session. The process is lengthy and Director Scolari will update the Board as the project continues. The School Bus Reimbursement Program is being put before the Interim Finance Committee to continue that successful program funded out of the lodging tax. Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) staff will participate in museum tours to become more familiar with the needs and opportunities leading into the 2025 legislative session.

Member Petersen expressed gratitude for Director Scolari's considerable efforts toward promoting the museums and apprising the Board of developments and opportunities.

b. Marketing and Communications Report. Francine Burge.

1. Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs update on marketing and communication strategies. *A presentation on the marketing and communication strategies was made by Francine Burge and staff from the Estipona Group. Member Bedeau suggested exploring opportunities to promote the SHPO facility in Virginia City. Member Martinez provided guidance pertaining to the accessibility of the museum's website and reminded the Estipona group she's available to assist with implementing effective accessibility strategies with the website.*

10. Administrator's Report. Daniel P. Thielen, DMH Administrator. (Information only, unless noted otherwise.)

a. Board Member Updates

Members Markoff, Petersen, Schorr and Timmons were reappointed as representatives of the general public. Members de la Garza and Schmitter were reappointed as representing fields of history, prehistoric archaeology, historical archaeology, architectural history, and architecture. The Governor had not yet made a determination for the seat representing architectural history.

b. General Report

Administrator Thielen provided updates on several ongoing projects, including online ticketing, the museum store, and staffing efforts.

Administrator conveyed there is a project developing a new rail bike program that allows the museum better control of operations to be safer, expand the educational opportunities and better promote the program. This would require an investment from the private funds but is not an action item for this meeting.

The Division is heavily invested in America 250. There is a committee overseeing coordination and while the Division is not driving the discussion, they are a large player. A ribbon cutting in Boulder City is planned with anticipation of tens of thousands of attendees. Other state museums will be a strong partner with the event and marketing.

Administrator Thielen hoped for progress regarding the East Ely Depot Museum after an upcoming hearing. Work on the freight barn has stopped pending resolution.

c. Capital Projects Update

Administrator Thielen updated on a Boulder City Railroad Museum project that needed to be pulled back and clarified for bidders but would not affect the overall timeline. Major repairs are in the works at the Nevada Historical Society which will most likely require an 18-month shut down. This would affect visitation, but the planning is to maintain a presence while work is being completed. Administrator Thielen continued that the strategic and marketing plans are being discussed with each director.

d. Interim Finance Committee Report (July 1, 2023 – December 30, 2023) (for possible action) + *Daphne DeLeon, ASO, updated the Board for discussion items being submitted for the upcoming Interim Finance Committee meeting. ASO DeLeon also noted a typo for fiscal year 2024 that should read July 1, "2023", not "2022".*

e. NAGPRA Report +

Dr. Anna Camp apprised the Board of consultation discussions and status of various repatriations.

11. Chair's Report. Anthony Timmons, Board Chair (all items for possible action)

a. Outreach Efforts

1. NHS Anniversary Celebration

Chair Timmons and Member Schmitter attended the Nevada Historical Society Anniversary event in Reno and Chair was a guest speaker.

2. Boulder City Public Meeting

Chair Timmons and Member Harper attended the meeting discussing plans for the museum project, as well as Director Scolari. Chair encouraged members to plan their travel and outreach.

b. Committee Updates

1. Legislative Affairs Committee

Chair Timmons sought interest from members who would like to be on the Legislative Affairs Committee currently being formed.

2. New Appointments

Member Martinez will replace Member Schmitter on the Marketing & Technology Committee. Member Martinez will also be on the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Member Schmitter will be serving on the CCCP Committee.

c. Annual Committee Meeting Schedule

Chair Timmons requested preliminary meeting schedules from committee chairs for the rest of 2024, and 2025, in an effort to provide as much guidance to the public as possible.

12. Board Committee Updates (all items for possible action)

a. Finance (Chair: Michelle Schmitter)

Committee Chair Schmitter provided the Board an overview of deliberations and requests emanating from the May 7 committee meeting. Details of the discussion items were posted with meeting materials.

1. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request +

Member Petersen moved to approve the budget request as presented; Vice Chair de la Garza and Member Martinez seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

2. Fiscal Policy Revision +

Member Schmitter and Administrator Thielen stated the need for the policy update to align timelines for previously approved items. Member Harper inquired how this level of authority compares with similar Boards/Commissions. ASO DeLeon stated that the structure aligns with state government.

b. Marketing and Technology (Chair: Seth Schorr)

No updates were provided for the Marketing and Technology Committee.

c. Membership (Chair: Mercedes de la Garza)

Kelly Brant updated the Board that the new membership cards are ready for the upcoming year and Board members will receive their copies shortly after meeting. Mr. Brant was able to update the membership cards at a significant savings compared with the original budget for the project.

d. Museum Store (Chair: Jan Peterson)

1. Online Museum Store: Phase II Discussion

Chair Petersen noted her previous discussions with the marketing team and expressed her enthusiasm for the ongoing project of the online museum store. Director Sprague and Estipona further elaborated on the upcoming plans. Chair Timmons requested the presentation be sent to Board members for further review.

e. East Ely Depot (Chair: Courtney Mooney)

Committee Chair Mooney stated Administrator Thielen provided updates in his report.

13. Consent Agenda. All items, a-n, for possible action. Items may be combined for a single vote. Board members may pull any item for discussion and/or separate vote.

Items:

- a. Restricted \$250 to NSMCC from the Reno Fiber Guild +
- b. Restricted \$50 to NSMCC from Joyce Robin Powell +
- c. Restricted \$350 to NSMCC from the Nevada Chapter of the PEO Sisterhood +
- d. Restricted \$800 to NSMCC from Coralee Johnson +
- e. Restricted \$3000 to NSMCC from the FRDK Trust +
- f. Restricted \$150 to NSMCC from Brown Elementary School +
- g. Restricted \$1000 to NSMCC from Brewery Arts Center +
- h. Restricted \$500 to NSMCC from David and Victoria Jones +
- i. Restricted \$45 to NSMCC from David and Elinor Bugli +
- j. Unrestricted \$9000 to NSMCC from Don and Nancy Dallas +
- k. Unrestricted \$25 to NSMCC from the Capurro Fund +
- l. Unrestricted \$100 to NSMCC from Thomas and Ana John +
- m. Restricted \$1000 to NHS from Meg Zbierski, Secretary, Trails West, Inc. +
- n. Restricted \$500 to NHS from Holly Gallup +

Vice Chair de la Garza moved to approve items 13a-n as consent agenda; members Slaughter and Petersen seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

14. Museum Reports

a. Lost City Museum Report +

Director Sprague shared that all CIP projects have been completed. Over 400 people attended the Native American Heritage Day event, despite the high winds, which is the largest attendance for the event in a long time. Other successful events included Archaeology Day and Kids Day. Members Harper and Petersen shared their appreciation for the organization and success of the Native American Heritage Day event.

b. Nevada State Museum in Carson City +

Director Bonde highlighted the record attendance, record store sales and increased new and upgraded memberships. Datsolalee medallion sales were very successful and \$5 of each sale benefitted the Washoe Cultural Center.

c. Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas Report +

Director Gillespie shared excellent attendance trends and stated there was a record number of student visitors to the museum. Store sales have already achieved targets and Director Gillespie expressed appreciation for the additional authority granted by the Board toward the increase in sales.

d. Nevada Historical Society Report +

Director Magee shared that the Historical Society has enjoyed an 84% increase in attendance compared with prior year figures. Additionally, there were fantastic responses to recent exhibits.

1. Deaccession Memo (for possible action) +

Member Bedeau moved to approve the deaccession; Vice Chair de la Garza and member Schmitter seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

2. Contract: Rowley Editorial Service +

Member Bedeau moved to approve the Rowley contract; Vice Chair de la Garza seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

e. Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City +

Administrator Thielen provided context to the Board on behalf of Director MacMahon for the action items up for consideration.

1. Request for Davenport Restoration +

Member Bedeau moved to authorize the Davenport restoration; member Mooney seconded. Motion carried with the majority of members, including the chair, voting in favor.

2. Eureka & Palisades Equipment Preservation Update +

Administrator Thielen updated the Board on the progress for the Eureka & Palisades preservation.

f. Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City +

Administrator Thielen updated the Board on the departure of Madelyn Pecorino, who oversaw museum store operations with great success. Administrator shared that inventory storage continues to be a challenge and updated the Board on restoration projects.

g. East Ely Railroad Depot Museum +

Director Pitts shared highlights of a visit from Travel Nevada with a focus on the ghost town of Hamilton, NV. The museum also hosted a Lego Show, focused on STEM activities. One young man learned to program a Lego robot within two hours and won the tournament with great appreciation from his mother. Director Pitts emphasized the great partnership with Great Basin College and upcoming opportunities to collaborate, with Director Pitts planning to be a guest speaker. There is also a new opportunity to partner with the Boys & Girls Club of America utilizing the freight building for their fundraising event. KGHM Corporation will be hosting their employee appreciation in the freight building and the attendance is anticipated to be significant.

15. Private funds budget adjustments - current year. (for possible action)

a. Changes approved by the Division Administrator:

1. State Museum CC Switch Replacement \$5000 +

Administrator Thielen shared that the switches failed and this switch was necessary to continue museum store operations.

b. Changes requested from the Board over \$5,000
No items were needed in the third quarter.

16. Board member comments on non-agendized items. (discussion only)

Member Bedeau requested the new Buildings and Grounds Committee be added to the agenda for committee reports.

Member Petersen expressed gratitude to member Mooney for her service on the Board.

Administrator Thielen indicated a determination on member Mooney's status from the Governor's office was still pending. Chair Timmons asked DAG Ward to clarify whether a member would continue in their current capacity until a new appointment was made. DAG Ward confirmed that has been the process with other boards and this Board does not have NAC that addresses this topic and would further investigate.

17. Future Board agenda items (discussion only). 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.

Chair Timmons noted the tabled discussion for 2025 meeting dates, addition of the Buildings and Grounds Committee to Board agendas, and Francine Burge being added to the Legislative Affairs Committee.

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

No public comment was received.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Timmons adjourned the meeting.