



Board of Museums and History
Buildings & Grounds Committee
Summary of Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 3:00 PM

This Committee Meeting was held online via MS TEAMS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bert Bedeau, Committee Chair
Mercedes de la Garza
Dora Martinez
Mark Slaughter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

Michelle Schmitter

ATTENDEES

Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Division of Museums & History
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General, State of Nevada
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
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum
Michael Malone, Administrative Assistant, Division of Museums & History

1. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Committee Chair.
Committee Chair Bert Bedeau called for the start of the recording of the meeting.
2. Call meeting to order. Committee Chair.
Chair Bedeau called the meeting to order.
3. Call for confirmation the meeting was properly posted. Committee Chair and staff.
Chair Bedeau asked for confirmation the meeting was properly posted. Administrative Assistant (AA) Michael Malone confirmed the meeting was posted in accordance with open meeting law.
4. Call for the roll call of Committee and determination of quorum. Committee Chair and staff.
Chair Bedeau asked AA Malone to take roll, and a quorum was determined.
5. Public comment announcement. Committee Chair.

No public comment was given.

6. Facilities Projects updates

a. East Ely properties (information only)

Administrator Thielen updated that work is currently suspended pending the outcome of legal proceedings pertaining to the facility.

b. Nevada Historical Society building (for possible action)

Director Magee updated the committee about the significant projects in process with plans in the final approval phase. Anticipated start date is tentatively, March 17, 2025, with 438 calendar days for the project. Substantial completion is targeted for May 29, 2026. The Historical Society will need to close to the public in January 2025 with the current timelines. NHS programming will be held at offsite locations to maintain a public presence. Chair Bedeau asked if the historical nature of the building was taken into account. Administrator Thielen stated that most of the work will address the physical plant and the building will remain intact. Lighting and ADA accessibility will be improved. Beyond those elements, no structural changes and general integrity will be affected.

Member de la Garza inquired as to the role of an historic review committee. Director Magee stated that the Nevada State Preservation Office (SHPO) and the University of Reno (UNR) have reviewed the plans and submitted comments. Member de la Garza asked Chair if the committee had been formed to address such situations. Chair Bedeau confirmed the intent of the committee is to provide expertise and support to the Board and Division in developing various projects, especially early in the planning in order to prevent potential issues. Chair noted that some of the projects in discussion were already developed projects.

Administrator Thielen inquired about a reasonable time to submit the plans for review. Member de la Garza suggested early in the schematic planning, citing three typical planning phases: Schematic Design, Design Development, and Construction Documents. Member Slaughter stated that 30% of design is standard for a review in discussion. Administrator Thielen expressed a concern with regard to the timing of reviews because many documents for the plans are not accessible for review.

c. Nevada State Museum and Topsy Lane HVAC upgrade (for possible action)

Director Bonde conveyed there has never been an adequate HVAC system for the Topsy Lane curatorial facility, which is 19,000 square feet of curatorial and office space. Three ground-mounted units will be installed, including duct work throughout the warehouse space to provide better climate control for offsite collections. This is a CIP still in design. Member de la Garza asked about fencing around the units. Administrator Thielen noted the secure installation of the units and ultimate cost savings by having them ground-mounted instead of on the roof.

7. New Business

a. 2025 Capitol Improvement Project proposal and process (for possible action)

Administrator Thielen presented an overview of various fiscal year 2025 capital improvement projects (CIP). The Adventure Center at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City plans showed the location of structures, murals and highlighted views available to visitors. The

Adventure Center at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City, will have details and art reflecting more of a desert environment.

The Division overview states 45 current CIPs with Administrator Thielen sharing that the CIP requests are expected to grow considerably as the process to develop them is streamlined.

The Nevada Historical Society CIP requests for the biennium prioritized exhibits modernization and high-density collections storage.

Administrator Thielen shared that the Lost City Museum has significant challenges with drainage, electricity and phone systems. When the respective requests were submitted, the requests were combined. Lost City Museum's request for projects in the biennium pertain to advance planning for repairs and upgrades, with CIP construction requests in the next biennium due to the combining of projects.

Chair Bedeau inquired if the Lost City Museum ever had an historical structures report.

Director Sprague stated that to the best of her knowledge, the museum had not had a report completed. Chair Bedeau asked if the museum is listed in the national register of historic places. Director Sprague confirmed the museum has been listed. Chair Bedeau suggested a historic structures report would be a good step early in the process to maintain the historic character of the building.

- b. Termination of lease with Carson City Chamber of Commerce for building at Nevada State Railroad Museum (for possible action)

The Carson City Chamber of Commerce has been using an outgrant for a building on the property of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City. The last renewal of the lease was in 2008 and the museum is seeking to end a roughly 40-year-old lease. \$1800 annual compensation for the property gets reverted to the general fund, the museum receives none of those funds. It had been determined at the end of the lease, the state would not renew the lease. There has been some pressure to renew the lease. The most likely activity on site would be a motor car shed to hold the McKeen motor car. The McKeen is problematic to move on the turntable. A motor car shed would remove the need for the McKeen car to be on the turntable.

The building itself is not ADA accessible and serves no purpose for the museum. The upgrades and repairs do not suggest a viable purpose for the building and the Chamber of Commerce would need to remove the building on termination of the lease. Any renewal of the lease would need to come before the Board.

Chair Bedeau noted that the McKeen motor car is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Member Slaughter moved to recommend to the Board of Museums & History that the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, terminate the lease with the Chamber of Commerce and utilize the property as a motor car shed to house the McKeen motor car, as noted by Administrator Thielen.

Member de la Garza seconded. The motion passed with all committee members present, including the chair.

8. Public Comment Announcement. Committee Chair.
No public comment was given.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Member Slaughter moved to adjourn the meeting. Member de la Garza seconded. The motion passed and Chair Bedeau adjourned the meeting.