

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Board of Museums and History Meeting

September 13, 2024

This meeting was held at the Nevada Historical Society, 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada 89503, and online via MS TEAMS.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Timmons, Chair
Mercedes de la Garza, Vice Chair
Bert Bedeau
Rochanne Downs
Nathan Harper
Daniel Markoff
Dora Martinez
Jan Petersen
Michelle Schmitter
Seth Schorr
Mark Slaughter

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
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
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
Mike Malone, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Division of Museums & History

ATTENDEES

Robin Reed, Acting Administrator / Deputy SHPO

Jean-Guy Dubé, National & State Register of Historic Places Coordinator, SHPO

Georgie De Antoni, Archaeologist, SHPO

Lori Rayner, Archaeological Reviewer, SHPO

Joe Curtis, Chair, Comstock Historic District Commission

Alicia Barber, Ph.D., Founder, Stories In Place

Lynn Bremer

Demetrice Dalton, Executive Director, Our Story, Inc.

Kenneth Dalton, Founder/President, Our Story, Inc.

George Hardaway, Board Member, Our Story, Inc.

Michael Knapp

Noah Levingston, Board Member, Our Story, Inc.

Helen Townsell, Author, *A Cry For Help*

1. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Chair of the 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.

Michael Malone, AAIII, 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. AA Malone took roll and confirmed there was a quorum for the meeting.

5. Public comment announcement. Board Chair.

No public comment was given.

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

- a. JUN 20, 2024 Board of Museums & History Meeting summary of minutes

Member Downs moved to accept with the corrections Member Bedeau provided to the Division office; Member Bedeau seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

- b. AUG 23, 2024 Board of Museums & History Special Meeting summary of minutes

Member Downs moved to approve the minutes; Member Petersen seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

- c. SEP 4, 2024 Board of Museums & History Buildings & Grounds Committee summary of minutes

Member Petersen moved to approve the minutes; Member Harper seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

Minutes available on the DMH website: <https://nvmuseums.org/meetings-agendas-minutes/>

7. Board Announcements and Meeting Dates. Board Chair. (All items for possible action)
 - a. 2024 Public Meeting Dates and Locations
December 6 – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
 - b. 2025 Meeting Dates and Locations
March 7 (FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Carson City
June 5-6 (THU-FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Carson City
September 11 (THU) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely
December 5 (FRI) – Lost City Museum, Overton
Member Petersen moved to accept the proposed 2024-2025 meeting dates; Member Downs seconded. Member Downs inquired about how changes to the meeting dates are determined after they've been decided. Administrator Thielen noted the date change for the meeting in question was due to his availability. Motion passed with the majority of members, including the chair.

8. Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Brenda Scolari, Director.
 - a. Department Update. Brenda Scolari.
Director Scolari shared that the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA) budget has been submitted to the Governor's office and will be presented on September 21st. DTCA is in the process of rebranding with Francine Burge, DTCA PIO, and partner, Estipona, having worked to develop and communicate the Division's strategic and marketing plans. DTCA is managing the America 250 celebration for the State in coordination with numerous agencies. The Governor's Conference on Tourism will be held October 29-30. The conference has not been held since 2019 and Director Scolari invited members to attend. DTCA partnered with the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno to sponsor the Sea Dragon exhibit with the museum's first foray into the natural science area, making a natural partnership. Director Scolari continued that a Paleontology Passport has been created and the partnership should highlight the State Museums for visitors to the Nevada Museum of Art. Administrator Thielen adds that the Division is very excited about the program, adding that the program will become accessible with an online presence. Member Bedeau inquires if the America 250 initiative being presented to the Nevada Legislature will partner with additional agencies such as State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Director Scolari stated the Department is funding the initiative and will be reaching out to other state agencies. Administrator Thielen stated there have been conversations with other agencies and they've expressed great enthusiasm for the project.

 - b. Marketing and Communications Report. Francine Burge.
Francine Burge shared that all museums can create their own graphics using Canva to provide greater flexibility with outreach. Ms. Burge stated that online ticketing has been accomplished at the Boulder City Railroad Museum and that March 31st, 2025, is Nevada Culture Day at the Nevada Legislature. Member Downs asked what Culture Day pertained to. Ms. Burge responded that, broadly, it's an opportunity to showcase museums' offerings and provide advocacy at Legislature. Chair Timmons asked Member Schorr and the Marketing & Technology Committee to partner with Ms. Burge regarding CRM Software and social media guidelines. Member Martinez requested that when the website is updated, she be included to help determine the accessibility. Member Martinez added that the online ticketing noted for Boulder City needed work to be fully accessible. Administrator Thielen thanked Member Martinez for testing the software. Member

Martinez reminded the Board that the new rule requires museums to be compliant within two years.

9. Administrator's Report. Daniel P. Thielen, DMH Administrator. (For possible action unless otherwise noted)

a. General Report

Administrator Thielen stated the budget submitted to the Governor was aggressive in emphasizing the need to get museums fully staffed in a way that meets industry standards, and reflects the anticipated growth articulated in the strategic plan. Administrator Thielen added that ten new positions have been requested to fully staff the museums. Member Downs inquired about the new position requests with regard to NAGPRA, due to federal compliance requirements. Administrator Thielen indicated the positions are primarily curatorial due to an immediate need for those positions and the strategic plan for the next biennium will address other staffing needs, such as NAGPRA positions.

b. Capital Improvement Projects Update

Administrator Thielen shared that the CIP overview was provided to the Buildings & Grounds Committee and the State Public Works Division has no reservations getting through the bid protest to move to construction phase in Boulder City. The Boulder City master plan is nearly complete and currently working through the accessibility elements. Administrator Thielen updated the HVAC system retrofit design at the Topsy Lane curatorial center is 65% complete. The extensive repairs at the Nevada Historical Society will require the museum to shut down from January 2025 through June 2026. The collections will need to be removed and replaced after construction and the museum will have an extensive outreach program during the closure. Chair Timmons asks if the Governor and Lt. Governor are aware of the closure. Administrator Thielen and Director Scolari stated they'll confirm they'll remain apprised of developments. Member Downs expressed concerns over the security and preservation of collections. Director Catherine Magee stated the museum is partnering with other state museums to determine opportunities and Debra Brastoff, Collections Manager, has been exploring options for the protection of collections needing to move. Administrator Thielen noted the concerns and stated this priority is something the Division takes seriously. State Museum Carson City is assisting, particularly with the sensitive items. Administrator Thielen continued that the second biggest item on the CIP request is compact shelving for collections. Member Downs expressed concerns regarding both available funding for retrofitting an existing facility and space for what's needed at a museum, suggesting legislators be made aware to engender support. Chair Timmons stated Culture Day at the Legislature will help with that outreach. Administrator Thielen expressed similar concerns and stated there are elected officials who would love to support museums, but there are obstacles with federal earmarks. Chair Timmons asked committee chairs Slaughter (Legislative Affairs) and Bedeau to explore the history and opportunities to assist museums with navigating opportunities for securing resources.

c. 2025 Legislature BDR Update

Administrator Thielen informed the Board of three priority requests; two affecting language changes to NRS to align with current collections management, and the disposition of federal funds with relation to the Board. A third priority is to address staffing vacancies.

d. East Ely Update

The hope is that a summary disposition pertaining to the lawsuit will be issued, however, construction is halted on the modernization of the Freight Building and seismic retrofit to the Depot, meaning funding of \$9 million is on hold pending resolution. Due to this, access to federal and state funding has been compromised and a future bond reissue would be the remedy.

e. NAGPRA Report

Anna Camp, Anthropology Tribal Liaison / NAGPRA Coordinator, informed the Board that new NAGPRA regulations were passed that precipitated a restructuring of staff working on NAGPRA-related items to align with new regulation. Dr. Camp also updated on the collaboration to provide a suitable and secure space for housing remains in partnership with tribal representatives. Member Downs shared that with the change in the law and terminology, the mandates have increased and it not just human remains being reviewed, adding that it will be an ongoing process indefinitely, but emphasized the importance of transparency. Administrator Thielen underscored the importance of transparency throughout this work. Chair entertained a question from Demetrice Dalton during public comment pertaining to the process for identifying an artifact that may not belong here, and if other states have a process with artifacts they may have that do belong here. Dr. Camp responded that National Park Service has with the new regulations, published a list of tribal historic preservation officers across the country to improve the work toward repatriation and information sharing.

10. Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Robin K. Reed, Acting Administrator / Deputy. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted)

a. Staff report

Deputy Administrator, Robin K. Reed, updated the Board that Rebecca Palmer had recently retired and that Deputy Reed would also be serving as acting administrator during the transition.

b. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Black Springs Volunteer Firehouse, Reno, Washoe County.

Acting Administrator Reed stated the Black Springs Volunteer Firehouse is significant under Criterion A, in the areas of ethnic heritage and provided the Board a brief history of the site and significance.

Member Bedeau stated the nomination was outstanding and acknowledged the work of Alica Barber and ZoAnn Campana, as well thanking the members of the community who were present in support of the nomination. Member Bedeau cited one correction to the period of significance, specific to what used to be known as "Bulletin 16A", noting the period of significance should be listed as 1970-1975, if submitted after January 1, 2025.

Alicia Barber credited the community of Black Springs and a number of key contributors present at the meeting who were instrumental in recording the historical events leading to the nomination. Member Markoff inquired as to the distinction of his building compared with others that are comparable. Kenneth Dalton, Founder and President of Our Story, Inc., informed the Board that the State of Nevada's first African American Fire Chief in Nevada was from the site, which was important to the State, not just the Black Springs community. Mr. Markoff acknowledged the contribution of the individual and asked about the significance of the building itself. Member Bedeau stated the community's effort to withstand discrimination and the building is a testament to the resilience of the community in the 20th Century in the face of that discrimination. Member Bedeau continued that the nomination was wonderfully written and documents the challenges the members of that community encountered. Member Bedeau also reminded the Board the National Register does not have to rise to the level of significance at the

state level and it is important at the local level, to the local community and it tells a very important story. Mr. Markoff asked why this wouldn't apply to any building in the community. Member Bedeau replied that it may very well apply to other sites as they meet the necessary criterion. Member Bedeau also reminded this is consistent with the broader initiative to recognize fire halls and fire stations across Nevada. Member Dora Martinez thanked the participants who made the link accessible to everyone to be able to review and appreciate the nomination. Member Downs expressed that the significance for many buildings or facilities is beyond just the structure itself. Additionally, Member Downs noted the broader context may not have documentation available to formally recognize the significance of a particular location and concluded that those who have done the time-consuming work and their diligence to complete the effort should be commended. Mr. Dalton provided additional history for how the nomination process began. Ms. Helen Townsell recounted experiences with the loss of structures due to the lack of resources and how the fire department came to be built. Ms. Townsell also stressed that the history of the Black Springs Volunteer Fire Department is not just black history about that community, it's Nevada history. Ms. Townsell invited members to visit the community to best appreciate the historical significance. Mr. George Hardaway shared that he is a retired history teacher and related the importance of sharing this legacy with younger generations to better understand the importance of the volunteer fire department and the community as a whole. Member de la Garza moved to approve the nomination for the Black Springs Volunteer Fire Department as written. The motion was seconded by members Bedeau, Harper and Petersen. Chair Timmons clarified if the motion included the correction submitted by Member Bedeau. Vice Chair de la Garza amended her motion to include the correction pertaining to period of significance. Members Bedeau, Harper and Petersen amended their second. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

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

Member Bedeau cited numerous improvements to the nomination since it was last brought to the Board and recommended the nomination move forward.

Member Bedeau moved that the updated nomination for the LULAC Multi-Purpose Senior Center be approved; Members de la Garza and Harper seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

- g. Board Request: Update on the status of the Comstock Historic District Commission (CHDC) and the Comstock History and Preservation Officer.

Acting Administrator Reed updated that there was a recent departure and the position for an architectural historian would be posted soon.

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

- a. CCCHP Grant Funding Update

Chair Timmons and Member Downs shared that exact fund amounts will be provided in subsequent meetings.

- b. Committee Updates

1. Legislative Affairs Committee Appointments

Chair Timmons shared that member Slaughter will be chair of the committee with member Downs also being on the committee.

2. New Committee Appointments

Chair Timmons stated he will be chairing the East Ely Depot Committee.

- c. 2025 Committee Meeting Schedule

1. East Ely Depot Committee

2025 committee meeting dates will be, February 5, May 7, August 6, November 5

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

a. Buildings & Grounds (Chair: Bert Bedeau)

Chair Bedeau shared that the committee discussed pending work on hold at the East Ely Depot, the pending work at the Nevada Historical Society, the status of the Topsy Lane HVAC repair, the suggestion to get an historic structures report for the Lost City Museum, and how the committee might benefit administration with early review of plans in the project development process. Chair added that the committee considered potential termination of lease and potential use of the building being leased by the Carson City Chamber of Commerce on the property of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City.

b. Finance (Chair: Michelle Schmitter)

Chair Schmitter updated the Board that the committee didn't meet but had sought information from Morgan Stanley pertaining to the endowment work.

d. Marketing and Technology (Chair: Seth Schorr)

Chair Schorr stated the committee will have an upcoming meeting in the second quarter that will include suggestions from the Board.

e. Membership (Chair: Mercedes de la Garza)

Chair de la Garza informed the Board the Membership Committee did not meet in the 1st quarter.

f. Museum Store (Chair: Jan Petersen)

Chair Petersen informed the Board the Museum Store Committee did not meet in the 1st quarter.

f. East Ely Depot (Chair: Tony Timmons)

13. Consent Agenda. All items, a-f, 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 \$5000 to NSMCC from the John and Grace Nauman Foundation

b. Restricted \$5000 to NSMCC from the Clark G. and Jean M. Russell Family Trust

c. Restricted \$300 to NSMCC from Elaine Manoukian

d. Restricted \$150 to NSMCC from Diane Boone

e. Restricted \$500 to NHS from Loren Little

f. Unrestricted \$19,666.66 to LCM from the Robert J. and Joyce N. Caproni Revocable Trust

Member Petersen moved to accept items 13 a-f as consent agenda, Vice Chair de la Garza seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

14. Museum Reports (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted)

a. Nevada Historical Society, Reno

1. Contract: Sheridan Press

b. Nevada State Museum, Carson City

c. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

d. Lost City Museum, Overton

e. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

f. East Ely Railroad Depot Museum, Ely

g. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City

15. Private funds budget adjustments - current year.
 - a. Changes approved by the Division Administrator
 - b. Changes requested from the Board over \$5,000

16. Board member comments on non-agendized items.

Member Harper reminded the Board the upcoming Nevada Museums Association meeting would take place in Tonopah, October 16-18. Vice Chair de la Garza updated that Guy Clifton passed away September 7, 2024, and shared several of his many contributions toward the cultural advancement of the Silver State.

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.

- *America 250 update*
- *36 CFR Curation Standards*
- *New NAGPRA regulations*
- *SHPO outreach*
- *Public Works bid protest update*
- *Date for Boulder City groundbreaking event*

18. Public Comment Announcement. Board Chair.

No public comment was given.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Timmons adjourned the meeting.