

**Board of Museums and History**  
**Special Meeting**  
Summary of Minutes

The meeting was held via TEAMS conference, January 17, 2025, at 9:00AM

**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  
Mark Slaughter  
Lou Ann Speulda-Drews

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Seth Schorr

**STAFF PRESENT**

Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History  
Christopher MacMahon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City  
Daphne DeLeon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City  
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum  
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General  
Francine Burge, Marketing & Communications Manager, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs  
Mike Malone, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Division of Museums & History

1. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Chair of the Board of Museums & History and Staff.  
*Board Chair Anthony Timmons requested the recording of the meeting be started. AA Michael Malone started the recording.*
2. Call the meeting to order. Board Chair.  
*Chair Timmons called the meeting to order.*
3. Call for confirmation the meeting was properly posted. Board Chair and staff.  
*AA Malone confirmed the meeting was posted in accordance with open meeting law.*
4. Call for the roll call of the Board and determination of quorum. Board Chair and staff.  
*AA Malone took roll and a quorum was confirmed.*
5. Public comment announcement. Board Chair.  
*No public comment was provided.*
6. Division of Museums & History, ASO II Introduction (informational only)  
*Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Division of Museums & History, introduced the Division's new ASO II, Nate Hanson. Mr. Hanson provided the Board a brief biography of his personal and professional ties to the State and expressed his excitement to work with the Board.*

7. Nevada Railroad Museum Rail Bike Proposal (for possible action) +

*Dr. Christopher MacMahon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City, provided an overview of the proposal. Dr. MacMahon shared a brief history of the program and highlighted the opportunities for the museum in Boulder City, as well as Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City. Administrator Thielen stated the expectation is that the money used to purchase the rail bikes will be repaid in approximately one year and confirmed the funds would be out of the private budgets. Member Markoff expressed concern the endeavor is getting away from the focus of the museum. Administrator Thielen cited examples of how the enhanced program is part of the interpretive experience the museum offers – the building of the railroad, why it's there, how rail traffic was the lifeblood of the nation. Dr. MacMahon added that a portion of the program would be designated toward other museum pursuits and acknowledged the requirement to return some funds to the State general fund.*

*Member Bedeau inquired about liability and associated expenses. Administrator Thielen stated those items would be addressed with Risk Management, but that it would be a new arrangement for this endeavor. Member Martinez asked if there would be adaptive bikes for people with a disability. Administrator Thielen and Dr. MacMahon confirmed their commitment to ensure the program is inclusive. Member Markoff asked Dr. MacMahon if the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) had guidelines and Director MacMahon stated there were no regulations specific to rail bikes, and articulated the plans to ensure implementation of safety measures for the program.*

*Member Markoff moved to accept the Rail Bike Proposal; Vice Chair de la Garza and Member Petersen seconded. The motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.*

8. Lost City Museum, Overton, NV (all items for possible action)

a. Request: Funding increase of \$5,000 for the Museum Store +

*Members Markoff moved to approve the request; Member Petersen seconded. The motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.*

b. Request: \$5,000 for Native American Heritage Day +

*Member Petersen moved to use the additional \$5,000 for Native American Heritage Day; Member Markoff seconded. The motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.*

9. Public Comment Announcement.

*No public comment was provided.*

10. ADJOURNMENT

*Chair Timmons adjourned the meeting.*

The public may acquire this meeting notice, agenda and supporting materials, pursuant to NRS 241.020(2) by contacting Michael Malone, Administrative Assistant III, Division of Museums and History, (775) 687-7340, ext. 301, or via email, to [mpmalone@nevadaculture.org](mailto:mpmalone@nevadaculture.org).

Supporting documents are available from the Nevada Division of Museums and History at 412 E. Musser Street, Suite # 2, Carson City, Nevada 89701.