

Board of Museums and History Meeting

June 5, 2025

Summary of Minutes

The meeting was held online via MS Teams, and in person, at:
Nevada State Museum Las Vegas, 309 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89301

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Timmons, Chair
Bert Bedeau
Rochanne Downs
Nathan Harper
Daniel Markoff
Dora Martinez
Jan Petersen
Michelle Schmitter
Seth Schorr
Mark Slaughter
Lou Ann Speulda-Drews

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mercedes de la Garza, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History
Brian Deem, Administrative Services Officer, Nevada Division of Museums & History
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General
Brenda Scolari, Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
ME Kawchack, Deputy Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Stewart Terry, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Francine Burge, Marketing & Communications Manager, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Kyle Shulz, Research Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Kelly Brant, Membership Programs Manager, Division of Museums & History
Art Krupicz, Administrator, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
Robin Reed, Deputy Administrator, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
Jean-Guy Dub  , National & State Register of Historic Places Coordinator, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
Hollis J. Gillespie, Director, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Josef Diaz, Curator of History and Material Culture, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Adrienne Villanueva, Administrative Assistant, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum
Christopher MacMahon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
Sean Pitts, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely
Daphne DeLeon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
Anna Camp, Acting Director, Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Mike Malone, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Division of Museums & History

ATTENDEES

Melissa Hafey, Management Assistant, Historic Preservation, City of Reno
Audie Robinson, Lodge Historian, Amity Lodge No. 4, F&AM

1. Call the meeting to order. Chair of the Nevada Board of Museums & History.
Board Chair Anthony Timmons called the meeting to order.
2. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Board Chair and staff.
Chair Timmons requested the recording of the meeting be started. AA Michael Malone started the recording.
3. Call for confirmation the meeting was properly posted. Board Chair and staff.
Chair Timmons asked if the meeting was properly posted. AA Malone confirmed the meeting was posted in accordance with open meeting law and clarified that informational agenda item 8 was disseminated separately from the larger Board packet.
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 given.
6. Acceptance of Minutes. Board Chair and Staff (All items for possible action.)
 - a. March 7, 2024 Board of Museums & History Meeting +
Member Petersen moved to approve the minutes; Member Slaughter seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.
 - b. May 12, 2025 Board of Museums & History, Finance Committee Meeting +
Member Petersen moved to approve the minutes; Member Slaughter seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.
7. Board announcements and meeting dates. (All items for possible action.)
 - a. 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates
 1. September 11 (THU) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely
 2. December 5 (FRI) – Lost City Museum, Overton
 3. March 5-6, 2026 (THU-FRI) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
 4. June 4-5, 2026 (THU-FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
 5. September 11, 2026 (FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Carson City
 6. December 4, 2026 (FRI) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City*During discussion, a Friday, September 12, 2025, meeting was suggested instead of Thursday, September 11th. Member Petersen moved to accept the new September 12, 2025, meeting date; Member Slaughter seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.*
8. Open Meeting Law Training Session. Deputy Attorney General, Harry Ward. (Informational) +
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General, facilitated a training session on Nevada's Open Meeting Law.
9. Consent agenda. All items, a-g, for possible action. Items may be combined for a single vote. Board members may pull any item for discussion and/or separate vote.
 - a. Restricted donation \$75 to NSMCC from Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe +
 - b. Restricted donation \$1,000 to NSMCC from American Heritage Partners +
 - c. Restricted donation \$200 to NSMCC Annual Appeal Drive from Joyce B. Smith +
 - d. Restricted donation \$985 to NHS from Jessica Ledbetter +
 - e. Restricted donation \$1,000 to NHS from Michael & Julia Henry +
 - f. Restricted sponsorship \$1,000 to NSMCC from Visit Carson City +

g. Nevada State Railroad Museum Boulder City, MOU with Boulder City Friends of the Library + Member Downs moved to approve consent agenda items 9a-g; Member Slaughter seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.

10. Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. Brenda Scolari, Director. (Informational)

a. Department Update. Brenda Scolari.

1. Humanities Grants: Board Member Update Request From March

Director Scolari updated the Board that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) all but eliminated the National Endowment for Humanities, budget staff and existing grants. Director Scolari added that the Library Services Office was similarly under review through DOGE and executive order.

b. Marketing and Communications Report. Francine Burge, Marketing & Communications Manager.

1. America 250 Update

11. Administrator's Report. Daniel P. Thielen, Administrator. (Informational)

a. General Report

b. ASO II Update

c. Capital Improvement Update

d. 2025 Legislature Update: SB27; SB78; AB115

e. Language Access Plan

f. East Ely Litigation Update

g. Board Member Current Term End Dates

h. NAGPRA

Administrator Thielen provided Division updates, including the CIP information received during meeting that of the 16 projects the State approved, the Division of Museums & History received one project approval.

12. Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. Art Krupicz, Administrator / State Historic Preservation Officer. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)

a. Staff Report +

b. State Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Amity Lodge No. 4, Free and Accepted Masons, Silver City, Lyon County +

Member Bedeau suggested edits to include other names associated with the building, such as the John Grier Boarding House; Section 5 edits to align with State and National Register guidelines; Criterion C be dropped and stand on Criterion A; edits to clarify criteria consideration 2, regarding the definition of reconstruction per the State and National Register guidelines; addressed updating the period of significance from 1867 to 1975; and suggested the section on cultural affiliation would best be left blank.

Member Speulda-Drews stated she agreed with Member Bedeau's comments regarding Criterion C, and further elaborated on the distinctions. Member Speulda-Drews provided examples of corrections to be made, such as window descriptions and editorial corrections. Member Speulda-Drews provided the SHPO office with five pages of suggested edits ultimately incorporated in the final, approved nomination.

Member Bedeau moved that, with modifications and edits suggested by the Board, the Board approve the nomination of the property at 176 Main St. to the State Register of Historic Places. Members Petersen and Martinez seconded.

Member Downs expressed concerns over approving the nomination without a full listing of the edits. Member Bedeau confirmed with SHPO staff the suggestions would be included and shared with members. Chair Timmons called the vote on the motion. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair. Member Downs voted in opposition.

13. Chair's Report. Anthony Timmons, Board Chair. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)
 - a. 2026 Board Committee Meeting Dates Request
Chair Timmons requested committee chairs establish their meeting dates to post in advance.
 - b. 2026 Strategic Planning Session – Friday, March 6, 2026
 - c. Legislative Affairs Committee Sunset (Mark Slaughter)
Chair Timmons thanked Chair Slaughter for his contributions during the 2025 Legislative Session.
 - d. Membership Committee Sunset (Mercedes de la Garza)
 - e. Fiscal Direction Update
14. Board Committee Updates (All items for possible action.)
 - a. Finance Committee (Chair: Michelle Schmitter)
 1. Fiscal Year 26 Budget Request +
Committee Chair Schmitter provided an overview of the fiscal year 26 budget requests to the Board, with the updates recommended by the Finance Committee. Member Slaughter moved to approve the FY26 budget requests as updated from the Finance Committee recommendations; Members Downs and Markoff seconded. Motion passed with the majority of members present, including the chair.
 2. Board Member Honorarium Donation
 3. Endowment Update
 4. Morgan Stanley Account Update Due To Recent Market Conditions
 - b. Legislative Affairs Committee (Chair: Mark Slaughter)
 - c. East Ely Depot Committee (Chair: Anthony Timmons)
 1. 2025 meeting dates: August 6, November 5
 - d. Buildings & Grounds Committee (Chair: Bert Bedeau)
 - e. Museum Store Committee (Chair: Jan Petersen)
 1. Online Store Update
 - f. Marketing & Technology Committee (Chair: Seth Schorr)
 - g. Membership Committee (Chair: Mercedes de la Garza)
15. Museum Reports (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)
 - a. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas +
 - b. Lost City Museum +
 - c. Nevada Historical Society +
 - d. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City +
 1. Status of the Great Western Railroad Roundup 2026 event
 - e. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely +
 - f. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City +
 - g. Nevada State Museum, Carson City +
16. Private funds budget adjustments – current year. (For possible action.)
 - a. Changes approved by the Division Administrator
 - b. Changes requested from the Board over \$5,000
Administrator Thielen confirmed there were no changes approved, nor requested.
17. Board member comments on non-agendized items. (Discussion only.)
No comments were provided.
18. 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 reviewed the following items noted for future consideration:

- *A Division-wide advertising review (where ads have been placed, response, etc.)*
- *Exploration of hiring a grant writer to maximize opportunities (Member Schorr)*
- *An recounting of the "Feathered Hat" story*
- *Consideration of a plaque at the NV State Railroad Museum Boulder City, similar to other construction projects citing dates, relevant parties, etc.*
- *Information from Parks & Recreation regarding historical markers – requirements, recent markers, etc.*
- *Member Markoff requested a listing of the projects where private funds are designated.*
- *A potential agenda item for the Finance Committee and/or Store Committee regarding museum store profits supporting staffing.*
- *Use of exhibit space to drive museum store sales.*
- *Chair Timmons referred the topic of Nevada State Museum Las Vegas signage to the B&G committee.*
- *An update on the Boulder City Rail Bike launch was requested.*
- *Information was requested on the portion of attendance through school tours, as it relates to overall growth.*
- *Member Harper inquired about the Department/Division policy on use of Ai in exhibits, marketing, general writing, etc.*
- *Member Markoff noted events at the Nevada State Railroad Museum Boulder City will be spectacular and generate more publicity than might be imagined.*

19. Public Comment Announcement.

AA Malone acknowledged the assistance from the State Museum Las Vegas staff in facilitating the meeting.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Timmons adjourned the meeting.

With the agenda being addressed in total on Thursday, June 5, 2025, the meeting adjourned, and a notice was posted to the Division's website communicating the conclusion of 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.

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