

# Board of Museums and History

Friday, December 5, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Summary of Minutes

This meeting was held online via TEAMS conference, and in person at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 320 North Moapa Valley Boulevard, Overton, Nevada 89040.

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Timmons, Chair  
Mercedes de la Garza, Vice Chair  
Rochanne Downs  
Nathan Harper  
Daniel Markoff  
Dora Martinez  
Jan Petersen  
Michelle Schmitter  
Seth Schorr  
Mark Slaughter  
Lou Ann Speulda-Drews

## ATTENDEES

Brenda Scolari, Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs  
Mary Ellen Kawchack, Deputy Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs  
Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History  
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General  
Brian Deem, Administrative Services Officer, Nevada Division of Museums & History  
Jen Roger, Director, Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Christopher MacMahon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City  
Catherine Magee, Director, Nevada Historical Society  
Sean Pitts, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely  
Hollis Gillespie, Director, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas  
Daphne DeLeon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City  
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum  
Kyle Shulz, Research Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs  
Kelly Brant, Membership Programs Manager, Division of Museums & History  
Anna Camp, Anthropology Tribal Liaison/NAGPRA Coordinator, Nevada State Museum Carson City  
SherylN Hayes-Zorn, Curator of History, Nevada Historical Society  
Kristina Hornback, Curator of Education, Nevada Historical Society  
Michael Malone, Administrative Assistant, Division of Museums & History  
Andrew Dunnigan, Executive Director, Government Entities, Morgan Stanley  
Art Krupicz, Administrator, Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)  
Robin Reed, Deputy Administrator, SHPO  
Jean-Guy Dube, National & State Register of Historic Places Coordinator, SHPO  
Alicia Barber  
ZoAnn Campana  
Melissa Hafey  
Michelle Van Geel

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.*
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. June 5, 2025 Board of Museums & History Meeting +  
*Member Petersen moved to accept the June 5, 2025 minutes; members [TWO SECONDS]. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*
  - b. September 12, 2025 Board of Museums & History, Finance Committee Meeting +  
*Vice Chair de la Garza moved to approve; Member Martinez seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members in attendance, including the chair.*
  - c. November 20, 2025 Board of Museums & History Special Meeting +  
*Member Petersen moved to accept the November 20, 2025 minutes; Member Slaughter seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*
7. Board announcements and meeting dates. (All items for possible action.)
  - a. 2025 Board Meeting Dates
    1. March 5-6, 2026 (THU-FRI) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City  
*Member Petersen moved that, weather permitting, the board meeting March 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> be held in Ely, with the administrator’s ability to change the meeting location to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, if needed. Vice Chair de la Garza seconded and the motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*
    2. June 4-5, 2026 (THU-FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
    3. September 11, 2026 (FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Carson City
    4. December 4, 2026 (FRI) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City*Member Petersen moved to approve meeting dates and locations for agenda items 7a2-7a4; Member seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

8. Consent agenda. All items, a-m, 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 \$1,000 to the NHS from Eugene M. Hattori +
  - b. Restricted donation \$10,000 to the NHS from Neal Cobb +
  - c. Restricted donation \$500 to the NHS from Susan Holly Gallup +
  - d. Restricted donation \$575 to the NHS from Donald H. Brawley +
  - e. Restricted donation \$15,000 to the NSMCC from the John and Grace Nauman Foundation +
  - f. Restricted donation \$3,000 to the NSMCC from Eugene M. Hattori +
  - g. Restricted donation \$1,000 to NSMCC from George & Sherry McConnell +
  - h. Restricted donation \$200 to NSMCC from Nancy Valiquette +
  - i. Restricted donation \$250 to NSMCC from Fidelity Charitable Trust +
  - j. Restricted donation \$100 to NSMCC from Judith Harker +
  - k. Lost City Museum – Native American Heritage Day reduced admissions +
  - l. Nevada State Museum Las Vegas – Additional Museum Store Spending Authority \$5000 +
  - m. Lost City Museum – Additional Museum Store Consignment Authority +

*Member Petersen moved to approve consent agenda items 8a-8m; Vice Chair de la Garza seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

9. Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. Brenda Scolari, Director. (Informational)
- a. Department Update. Brenda Scolari.
  - b. Marketing and Communications Report. Mary Ellen Kawchack, Chief Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs.

*Director Scolari and Chief Deputy Director Kawchack provide updates to members, including that marketing and communications would be overseen by Ms. Kawchack with Francine Burge leaving the agency.*

10. Administrator's Report. Daniel P. Thielen, Administrator. (Informational)
- a. General Report
  - b. Nevada State Museum Carson City, Coin Press Purchase +
  - c. Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Updates
  - d. Nevada State Dedication Plaques
  - e. NAGPRA

- 1. EMU Request +

*Items 10b and 10e1 were inadvertently listed as informational and no action was taken.*

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

- a. Staff Report +
- b. National Register of Historic Places amended nomination: Las Vegas Mormon Fort (NRIS 72000764), 500 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada +

*Members provided suggestions on the nomination and a determination was made to review for final approval in a special meeting to be scheduled, January 2026.*

- c. National Register of Historic Places nomination: Bethel AME Parsonage, 411 East Seventh Street, Reno, Washoe County, Nevada +

*Vice Chair de la Garza moved to approve the nomination as presented with the slight modification of the date; Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

12. Chair's Report. Anthony Timmons, Board Chair. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)
  - a. William K. Rowley Contract, Nevada Historical Society +
  - b. Apprise Board of the September special meeting on Nevada State Railroad Museum Ely  
*Chair Timmons apprised the Board of the contract approval and a determination by the Governor to have the Nevada State Railroad Museum Ely be transferred away from the Division of Museums & History; specifics of that transfer still to be confirmed.*
  
13. Board Committee Updates (All items for possible action.)
  - a. Finance Committee (Chair: Michelle Schmitter)  
*Mr. Andrew Dunnigan provided the Board with a status of the Morgan Stanley portfolio.*
  - b. East Ely Depot Committee (Chair: Anthony Timmons)
  - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee (Chair: Bert Bedeau)
  - d. Museum Store Committee (Chair: Jan Petersen)
  - e. Marketing & Technology Committee (Chair: Seth Schorr)
  
14. Museum Reports (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)
  - a. Lost City Museum +
  - b. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City +
  - c. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely +
  - d. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas +
  - e. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City +
  - f. Nevada State Museum, Carson City +
  - g. Nevada Historical Society +
  
15. 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
  
16. Board member comments on non-agendized items. (Discussion only.)
  
17. Future Board agenda items (Discussion only).
  
18. Public Comment Announcement.  
*No public comment was given.*
  
19. ADJOURNMENT  
*Chair Timmons adjourned the meeting.*

POSTING LOCATIONS

<https://notice.nv.gov>

<http://museums.nevadaculture.org>

NEVADA DIVISION OF MUSEUMS & HISTORY

412 E. Musser St., Suite 2, Carson Street, Carson City 89701

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.