

Board of Museums and History
Finance Committee Meeting
Summary of Minutes

The meeting was held via TEAMS conference, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 8:00AM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Michelle Schmitter, Committee Chair
Anthony Timmons
Mark Slaughter

ATTENDEES

Daniel Thielen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Museums & History
Brian Deem, Administrative Services Officer, Nevada Division of Museums & History
Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General
Daphne DeLeon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
Hollis Gillespie, Director, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Christopher MacMahon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
Sean Pitts, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum
Michael Malone, Administrative Assistant, Division of Museums & History

1. Call the meeting to order. Committee Chair.
Committee Chair Michelle Schmitter opened the meeting and asked member Anthony Timmons to facilitate the meeting due to an illness.
2. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Committee Chair.
Member Timmons requested the recording of the meeting be started. AA Michael Malone started the recording.
3. Call for confirmation the meeting was properly posted. Committee Chair and staff.
Member 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. Committee Chair and staff.
AA Malone took roll and a quorum was confirmed.
5. Public comment announcement. Board Chair.
No public comment was given.
6. Review MDTF Budgeting, FY2027 budget request(s). (For discussion and possible action.)
 - a. Budget Request by Revenue Sources
 - b. Museum Private Funds Budget Review
 - c. List of enhancement requests by budget account.
 - d. List of Positions Funded from the Museum Dedicated Trust Funds*Division ASO Brian Deem reviewed each budget request with the committee, including enhancement requests and funding of staff positions. ASO Deem noted two editorial*

corrections that would be addressed prior to the June meeting for BA5037B (Boulder City Railroad Museum) and 5038 (Lost City Museum).

Chair Schmitter thanked ASO Deem and museum directors, specifically noting the requests were aligned with the mission of the agency.

7. Endowment Resolution (For discussion and possible action.)

Chair Schmitter reminded the committee of past discussions and asked Administrator Thielen to update on what efforts were being pursued by individual museums, and/or the Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. Administrator Thielen stated that he's pleased with the direction the Board is taking toward an endowment, but that another meeting to clarify some of the open questions would be needed prior to final determinations on the best approach.

Member Timmons expressed his preference for establishing an endowment, acknowledging remaining questions pertaining to the funding. Member Timmons also expressed two concerns; the history of the Nevada Legislature to sweep unused funds into the state budget, and recent attempts to reduce the number of boards and commissions.

Administrator Thielen stated it would be difficult for the legislature to claim restricted, private donations to these budgets. He added that the recent effort to reduce or eliminate boards and commissions was focused on regulatory bodies, which the Board of Museums & History is not. Administrator Thielen noted that nothing has 100% certainty, but that he's confident neither concern would inhibit the intent of the endowment to support state museums. Chair Schmitter acknowledged the reassurances of Administrator Thielen with regard to how the endowment is being prepared.

Member Slaughter moved to establish an endowment and bring the item to the larger board.

Chair Schmitter seconded. The motion carried with members present voting in favor.

8. Morgan Stanley (For discussion.)

a. Deposits to accounts

Chair Schmitter stated the need for clarification on how the money moves between the treasurer's office and the Morgan Stanley investment account, adding that a threshold should be determined for when money is moved. ASO Deem discussed the process of moving funds, and indicated a quarterly review could be established along with a threshold determination.

b. Bretzlaff permanently restricted account

Chair Schmitter mentioned discussions with ASO Deem on the details of the Bretzlaff funds, and suggested having Morgan Stanley delineate those funds from other, unrestricted funds. Administrator Thielen agreed with the need to delineate the funds with Morgan Stanley, and stated the division office recently met with the executor of the foundation to discuss an audit of the account with all parties being current with the status.

9. Audit of all BMH oversight funds (For discussion.)

Chair Schmitter stated recent discussions regarding an audit and Administrator Thielen stated the search for an outside auditor was ongoing, but that the division has been compliant with annual state audits. Chair Schmitter added that an audit of the Morgan Stanley account should also be addressed. Member Timmons concurred, with emphasis on transparency as the endowment moves forward.

10. Update on Board Member Stipends.

AA Malone provided an update on progress recording stipend reconciliation, stating some reconciliation was in process, but the resolution would be iterative.

11. Public Comment Announcement.

No public comment was given.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Member Timmons adjourned the meeting.

NOTICE 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.

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

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