

## Board of Museums and History

### SUMMARY OF MINUTES

The meeting was held via TEAMS conference, and in-person Friday, June 12, 2026, 9:00 AM, at:  
Nevada State Museum Las Vegas  
309 S. Valley View Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89107

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

#### 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  
Sean Pitts, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely  
Hollis Gillespie, Director, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas  
Josef Diaz, Curator of History and Material Culture, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas  
Daphne DeLeon, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City  
Tracey Sprague, Director, Lost City Museum  
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  
Grace Goedeker, SHPO Programs Supervisor, Architectural Historian  
Shaelin Spahle, Architectural Historian, SHPO  
Kyle Shulz, Research Director, Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs  
Anna Camp, Anthropology Tribal Liaison/NAGPRA Coordinator, Nevada State Museum Carson City  
Michael Malone, Administrative Assistant, Division of Museums & History  
Andrew Dunnigan, Executive Director | Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley  
Blair Davenport, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission, Boulder City  
Nakeisha Lyon, City Planner, Boulder City  
Courtney Mooney  
Julia Marroquin

1. Call the meeting to order. Chair of the Nevada Board of Museums & History.  
*Acting Board Chair Jan Petersen called the meeting to order.*
2. Call for the start of the recording of the meeting. Board Chair and staff.  
*Chair Petersen 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 Petersen 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. March 6, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Museums & History+  
*Member Slaughter moved to approve the March 6, 2026 minutes; Member Harper seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*
  - b. April 21, 2026, Meeting of the Board of Museums & History Finance Committee+  
*Member Harper moved to approve the April 21, 2026 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. 2026 Board Meeting Dates
    1. September 11, 2026 (FRI) – Nevada State Museum, Carson City
    2. December 4, 2026 (FRI) – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
8. Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs (DTCA). Brenda Scolari, Director. (Informational)
  - a. Department Update. Brenda Scolari, Director.  
*Director Scolari updated members there would be a final America 250 commission meeting in June. In partnership with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Nevada will have a large presence on the National Mall highlighting Nevada's contributions to the country over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Director Scolari previewed preparations for the 2027 legislative session and budget building, mindful of projected tourism revenue after recent declines in lodging tax revenue the last two years.*
  - b. Marketing and Communications Report. Mary Ellen Kawchack, Chief Deputy Director, DTCA.  
*Chief Deputy Director Kawchack provided an update on the successful engagement from marketing outreach efforts across a variety of museum events and activities.*

9. Consent agenda. All items, a-d, for possible action. Items may be combined for a single vote. Board members may pull any item for discussion and/or separate vote. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)

- a. Restricted donation \$18,500 to the NHS from the Paul and Gwen Leonard Charitable Foundation at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada+
- b. Restricted donation \$1,000 to the NSMCC from Cora Johnson+
- c. Restricted donation \$1,325 to the NSMCC from the Nevada Appeal drive+
- d. Nevada State Museum Las Vegas, Curation-Repository Fee Structure Request+

*Member Bedeau moved to approve consent agenda items 9a-9d; Member Martinez seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

10. Administrator's Report. Daniel P. Thielen, Administrator. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)

- a. General Report

*Administrator Thielen presented an overview of the facility projects and financial data for the Division. During discussion on the update, Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair, member Bedeau, offered assistance to the division office for design support.*

*Administrator continued with details about the grand opening for the new Nevada State Railroad Museum Boulder City Visitor Center, due to take place on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.*

- b. Personnel Updates

*Administrator Thielen recognized the retirement of Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, Director Hollis J. Gillespie. Administrator Thielen thanked Director Gillespie for her service and commitment toward preserving Nevada's significant history. Josef Diaz will be acting director until a new director is named. Administrator Thielen also recognized the retirement of Wes Southerland, from the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, and Chris DeWitt, from the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City. Member Markoff shared an anecdote of his first encounters with Chris DeWitt, to refurbish the Eureka locomotive he owns. The anecdote highlighted the dedication and steadfastness Mr. DeWitt had toward completing the project as it should be, true to the original, without compromise. Mr. Markoff noted Mr. DeWitt's adherence to the highest possible standards was born out throughout his time in state service, with great appreciation.*

- c. NAGPRA

*Administrator Thielen let members know the agency received a letter from the Reno Sparks Indian Colony. Dr. Anna Camp, Curator of Anthropology/Tribal Liaison, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, provided members with an update on NAGPRA efforts. Member Downs acknowledged the challenges with resolving NAGPRA concerns, and that some have persisted since before the current agency staff were involved. Member Downs inquired about museum holdings and compliance to the important state and federal requirements. Dr. Camp, Director Catherine Magee, and Director Sprague, confirmed their museums are in compliance with their NAGPRA efforts and holdings.*

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 nomination: Boulder City Navy Hangar, Boulder City, Clark County, Nevada +

*Member Markoff moved to approve the Boulder City Navy Hangar nomination; Member Bedeau seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

12. Chair's Report. Board Chair. (All items for possible action unless otherwise noted.)

- a. General Report
- b. Update on member renewals/appointments.

*Chair Petersen noted the process for a change in the CCCHP representative, with member Schmitter resigning, and member Speulda-Drews assuming the position with the CCCHP, acknowledged on the record. Member Speulda-Drews confirmed she had initiated the requisite paperwork with the state. AA Malone shared that member Slaughter's term would end July 31, 2026, and member Martinez' term ends September 30, 2026. Both are eligible to apply for reappointment.*

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

- a. Finance Committee (Chair: Michelle Schmitter)

- 1. FY27 Budget Requests +

*Administrative Services Officer Deem noted a typo on the Nevada Historical budget request to be noted in a subsequent posting. Member Schmitter moved to approve the FY27 Budget Requests; Member Harper seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

- 2. Endowment Update

- 3. Morgan Stanley Account Update

*Andrew Dunnigan, Executive Director and Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley, provided members with an account overview earlier in the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.*

- b. Buildings & Grounds Committee (Chair: Bert Bedeau)

- c. Museum Store Committee (Chair: Jan Petersen)

*Director Sprague updated members on the testing of a new POS system and the need to ensure ADA accessibility for all facets.*

- d. Marketing & Technology Committee (Chair: Seth Schorr)

*Chair Schorr shared some tools from the private sector that might assist museum staff. Deputy Director M.E. Kawchack suggested collaboration via a committee meeting.*

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

- a. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas +
- b. Nevada Historical Society +
- c. Lost City Museum +
- d. Nevada State Museum, Carson City +
- e. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Ely +
- f. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City +

- 1. MOU Request+

*Member Slaughter moved to approve agenda item 14f1; Member Markoff seconded. Motion carried with a majority of members present, including the chair.*

- g. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City +

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

*Administrator Thielen stated no reporting is needed since last meeting.*

16. Board member comments on non-agendized items. (Discussion only.)

*Member Harper suggested a division-wide calendar to review all museum events in one location.*

*Chair Petersen confirmed with Dr. MacMahon the Nevada State Railroad, Boulder City, grand opening event will be on September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9AM.*

17. Future Board agenda items (Discussion only).

18. Public Comment Announcement.

*Board members, agency staff, associated attendees, and colleagues, all expressed gratitude to Hollis J. Gillette, for her many contributions to the state and museum system, with sincere and significant gratitude.*

19. ADJOURNMENT

*Acting Chair Jan Petersen 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 the Division of Museums and History, (775) 687-7340, or via email, to

[dmhfiscal@nevadaculture.org](mailto:dmhfiscal@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.