

Meeting Summary

BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY December 12, 2014

Location

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
309 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89107

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Stoldal, Chairman
Alicia Barber
Renee Diamond
Pete Dubé
Doris Dwyer
Kara Kelley
Daniel Markoff
Robert Ostrovsky
Janice Pine

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sarah Cowie

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS STAFF PRESENT

Claudia Vecchio, Director, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs - via teleconference
Peter Barton, Administrator, Division of Museums and History
Samantha Rubinson, Historic Preservation Specialist II, State Historic Preservation Office
Sarah Bradley, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
James Barmore, Director, Nevada State Museum, Carson City – via teleconference
Dennis McBride, Director, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Jerrie Clarke, Director, Lost City Museum
Greg Corbin, Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City – via teleconference
Wendell Huffman, Curator, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City – via teleconference
Carrie Edlefsen, Administrative Services Officer II, Division of Museums and History
Kate Hemingway, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
Lauri Brown, Administrative Assistant IV, Division of Museums and History

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Bassett, Nevada Northern Railway – McGill Depot, McGill, White Pine County, Nevada
Joan Bassett, Nevada Northern Railway – McGill Depot, McGill, White Pine County, Nevada
Stanton Wilkerson, Harrison House, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada
Katherine Duncan, Harrison House, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada
Katie Horn, Las Vegas Valley Water District
F. Andrew Taylor, Las Vegas Review Journal
Joe Thomson, Volunteer, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

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1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30am and confirmed a quorum was present and the meeting posted in accordance with NRS 241. (1,2)

2. The Board adopted the meeting minutes of the September 12, 2014 meeting. Pete Dubé made the motion, seconded by Janice Pine and approved without dissent. (4)
3. The Board adopted the meeting minutes from the October 6, 2014 meeting. Dr. Doris Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Pete Dubé and approved without dissent. (4)
4. The Board approved holding the June quarterly meeting on Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. Motion by Pete Dubé, second by Janice Pine and approved without dissent. (5)
5. The Board considered the application of the McGill Depot to the National Register of Historic Places. Dan Markoff moved approval, Janice Pine seconded the motion and it passed without dissent. (6B1)
6. The Board considered and approved the nomination of Harrison's Guest House, Las Vegas to the National Register of Historic Places. Renee Diamond moved approval, seconded by Pete Dubé and the motion passed without dissent. (6B2)
7. The Board heard an extensive report on matters of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, presented by Director Claudia Vecchio. (7A)
8. The Board heard a report from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Rebecca Palmer. Included was a discussion on the future of the closed Nevada State Prison. (7B)
9. Museum's Administrator Barton gave a report on the State budget submission, current year state budget shortfall and the status of the proposed Capital Improvement Program projects for the upcoming biennium. (7C)
10. The Board reviewed and approved the Interlocal contract by and between the State of Nevada and the Las Vegas Valley Water District governing joint operations of the State Museum and the Las Vegas Spring Preserve. Dan Markoff made a motion to approve the contract, Renee Diamond seconded and the motion passed without dissent. (7D)
11. The Board reviewed the draft strategic planning document for the Division and a lengthy discussion ensued on the intent, purpose and intended distribution of the plan. It was decided the Board members would continue to review the draft document and submit comments directly to the Division Administrator not later than January 9, 2015. Further discussion at a Board planning meeting was thought to be beneficial. (7C)
12. A report on an in-progress Legislative Audit was presented. (7C)
13. Statistical reports on museum attendance through Fiscal Year 2014 (June 30, 2014) were presented and discussed. Staff to follow-up and present to the Board the statistical performance measures and methodology for calculating performance measures. This to provide a more complete and accurate picture of how museums are attracting visitors. (7C)
14. Kara Kelley provided a report on the closing events of the Nevada Sesquicentennial. The post NV 150 exhibit, to be placed in the Legislature, the Grant Sawyer building and ultimately the State Capitol was discussed as was the transfer of fiscal assets of the NV 150 Foundation and on-going license plate sales.
15. Director Jim Barmore reported on two critical issues facing the Nevada State Museum: 1) lack of staff to provide and maintain critical public services and, 2) a critical lack of collection storage space that is safe, secure and meets minimum standards as required. Much information was shared in regard to the latter and ultimately the Chair appointed a working subcommittee to study the collection storage crisis at NSM and review the situation Division-wide. The subcommittee includes Chair Stoldal, and members Dr. Alicia Barber and Dr. Doris Dwyer. Independently over the coming weeks they will visit NSM and the subcommittee will prepare a report for the full Board for the April 2015 meeting. (7D)
16. NSRM-CC Director Greg Corbin spoke on the matter of stabilizing and possible restoration of V&T Coach #17, a report being included in the supporting documents. Discussion ensued on likely costs; staff did not have sufficient data to propose a project

cost but thought it to be under \$5,000 in which case the Administrator could approve such a request. Discussion held on possible sources of larger funding, should a full-restoration of the car be deemed appropriate and possible. The Union Pacific RR Foundation was specifically cited. (7D)

17. The Board moved to approve the deaccession of a passenger car lavatory not appropriate to NSRM collections. Renee Diamond made the motion, seconded by Kara Kelley and approved without dissent. (7D)
18. Kate Hemmingway presented the Boulder City RR report, noting great success in the experiment with on-line ticket sales. Ms. Hemmingway also updated the situation with the Boulder By-Pass project and economic development efforts in Boulder City. (7D)
19. Director Clarke of Lost City spoke to the loss of organized school visits to the museum, this attributed largely to the cost of transportation. After much discussion, this item was to be revisited during the planned off-site Board planning meeting. (7D)
20. Dan Markoff moved and Janice Pine seconded a request to deaccession three items from the Lost City collections. These were firearms and related materials deemed inappropriate for LCM collections. The motion was approved without dissent. (7D)
21. Considerable discussion was pursued on the matter of the Sheffield LoPresti Trust and real property listed in the Trust for the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. State Lands provided an informal appraisal of \$55,000 for the property based on a summer 2014 visit to the property. The property appears to be vacant. Discussion on appropriate next steps was pursued with the Deputy Attorney General Sarah Bradley. Robert Ostrovsky moved to advise the Trust counsel that the Board will not waive its future interest, and that based on his prior assertions that she wasn't living there, that the Board further has concerns about whether or not she's meeting her obligation under the Trust agreement, and would you please advise. Member Markoff seconded and the motion was approved without dissent. (7D)
22. Discussion of reallocation of investment funds, based on recommendations of the fund counsel, Morgan Stanley, was discussed. Member Dubé motioned to move the Brandes funds into Federated, and then the minimum \$50,000 cash, and move the balance of that into Federated. Member Pine seconded. The motion passed without dissent. (8)
23. The 2014 Independent Audit report of the Museum Dedicated Trust Funds was presented to the Board. Member Ostrovsky asked that the minutes reflect that the report was presented to the Board and to the State in the appropriate and required timeframe. (8)
24. The Board adopted Investment Policy mandates at least three fund managers and action taken previously in this meeting would reduce the number of managers to two, violating the Board policy. Member Dubé, on advice of counsel motioned to rescind the prior action to move funds out of Brandes. Member Pine seconded and the motion was approved. (8)
25. Member Dubé made a motion to move cash in excess of \$50,000 into the Federated account as per recommendation of the fund manager. Member Janice Pine seconded and the motion carried. Finance subcommittee chair Ostrovsky will report back at the April 2015 meeting with a recommendation for a third fund manager. (8)
26. In discussing updates to Board policies considerable discussion followed on the appropriate and best approach to keeping meeting records. Deputy Attorney General Bradley provided information relative to requirements for adopting minutes or meeting summaries. In general the Board prefers not to have to review and approve full meeting transcripts. Preparation of meeting summaries is both subjective and time-consuming for staff. Member Dubé made a motion to accept the policy governing the preparation and dissemination of reporting the minutes; that there will be a transcript and a summary

- that is voted on to comply with statutory requirements. Member Janice Pine seconded. The motion was tabled for further review. (10-1)
27. The Board accepted the policy on Private Funds Budgeting, Expenditures and General Control after edits were made. Member Pine motioned, member Dubé seconded and the motion passed. (10-2)
 28. Member Dubé motioned to approve, with text revisions, the Membership Policy, expanded to consider staff of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs as individual members of the museums, without the benefit of the *Quarterly* publication. Member Pine seconded the motion which was approved on a vote of the Board. (10-3)
 29. Member Dubé moved to approve the Open Meeting Law policy, members Kelley seconded and the vote was in the affirmative to accept. (10-4)
 30. Member Dubé moved to accept the Board Investment Policy as presented. Seconded by member Pine and approved without dissent. (10-5)
 31. Janice Pine moved to accept the Board Admission and Train Ride Policy as presented by staff. Member Renee Diamond made the second, and the motion carried. (10-6)
 32. Member Ostrovsky noted that due to the impending Legislative session, no further plans were made for a possible meeting of the Board dedicated to strategic and long-term planning. It was suggested this item remain on future agendas though not likely such a meeting could be scheduled prior to Fall 2015. (11)
 33. Member Dubé moved, seconded by member Kelley to accept a \$1,000 restricted donation from Patricia Tripple for the NV State Museum Textile Center. Approved without dissent. (13C1)
 34. Member Renee Diamond moved to accept \$5000 from the Reno Fiber Guild for the Nevada State Museum Textile Fund. Seconded by Kara Kelley and approved. (13C2)
 35. Member Janice Pine moved to accept \$5,000 from the Friends of the NV State Museum. Member Diamond seconded the motion which was approved. (13C3)
 36. Member Pete Dubé moved to accept \$600 in restricted funds for the Nevada Historical Society AGA fund. Seconded by member Janice Pine and approved. (13C4)
 37. No public comment was offered and the meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm. (14,17)

() = Reference to agenda item number for the December 12, 2014 meeting.