

**CAPITOL PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Capitol Board Room**

**Board Members in attendance:**

President Stuart Adams  
Senator Kirk Cullimore  
Representative Jennifer Dailey-Provost  
Representative Jim Dunnigan  
Attorney General Derek Brown  
State Treasurer Marlo Oaks  
SHPO Director Christopher Merritt

**Board Members excused:**

Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson  
Speaker Mike Schultz  
Senator Jennifer Plumb  
Chief Justice Matthew Durrant

**Capitol Preservation Board Office:**

Dana Jones	Alex Lambert
Stephanie Angelides	Melissa Bennett
Lana Parker	

**Others**

Tanya Akiyama, DFCM	Ella Mauchley
Steve Allred, LFA	Alex O'Brien
Ryan Beck	Jennifer Ortiz, UHS
Olivia Craig, Senate	Priscila Self, DFCM
Michael Despain	Rorie Stewart
Karen Ferguson, VCBO	Chief Mark Thomas, Senate
Joe Giacalone, GOPB	Lieutenant Ryan Van Fleet, UHP
Tim Glenn, UHS	David Wicai, CCE
Ashley Israelsen	Erin Wynn, AG
Mike Kelley, AGO	
Andy Marr, DFCM	

### **Call to Order**

President Adams called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Approval of minutes from the January 15, 2025 Capitol Preservation Board Meeting.

***A motion was made to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2025 Capitol Preservation Board meeting by Representative Dunnigan. The motion was seconded by Attorney General Brown. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **Pioneer Trail Foundation**

#### **Ryan Beck**

Inspired by Boston's Freedom Trail and wanting to highlight Salt Lake City's historic assets, Ryan Beck introduced the "Pioneer Trail" project. The proposal is a one-mile, round-trip walking route that connects historic sites downtown, including Temple Square, City Creek Park, Council Hall, Utah State Capitol, and Memory Grove. Creating the trail is envisioned to require landscaping upgrades and the inclusion of public art. The desire is for the Pioneer Trail to become the golden mile of Salt Lake City.

Looking at other cities, historic cores like London's Mall, Edinburgh's Royal Mile, and Paris's Champs-Élysées offer unique and easily walkable experiences for visitors. These areas tell something about the identity of a place. The culture and history of Utah are fundamentally inspiring, providing an opportunity to connect with the state's story and values, much like how the Freedom Trail has done for Boston.

Discussions with city stakeholders have shown interest in the project, with a green light to proceed with a first draft of the design. While no one has committed to moving forward, there's been an invitation to present a design proposal. The project has support from local leaders like Governor Cox and Mayor Mendenhall, as well as from officials with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The idea has also been introduced to neighborhood councils and discussed with various departments, including transportation, public works, historic preservation, and utilities.

This is the Place Foundation has committed \$5 million in catalytic funding to support the Pioneer Trail project. This commitment is viewed as crucial for generating interest and demonstrating the seriousness of the project to other stakeholders. In addition to the funding, This is the Place has offered to use their own team to maintain any improvements made to the trail. A commitment has been made to sign an agreement

ensuring that any upgrades will not become an unfunded liability for the city, which is seen as a key factor in moving the project forward. The \$5 million commitment was made after initial approval from stakeholders, including the city and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to include their properties in the project plan.

Following this, the project sought out the best possible firm for the work, and Field Operations was identified as a leading choice for this type of project. Field Operations is a world-renowned landscape architecture firm founded by James Corner, known for the High Line in New York City. The firm has been selected based on its extensive experience with urban land reuse projects globally. The design process is currently in its initial stages, with a plan to present preliminary designs to the board later this year.

The proposed one-mile loop will connect several historic sites, starting at Temple Square. Key locations along the route include the Assembly Hall, City Creek Park, the Kimball Cemetery, Council Hall, White Memorial Church, Memorial House, and Memory Grove. The route will also provide connections to the Utah State Capitol complex.

Initial concepts for the trail include:

- Consistent trail markers to guide visitors along the route.
- The addition of public art and monuments.
- Activation of underutilized spaces with potential ideas like a farmers' market in the area near the White Memorial Church and Council Hall.
- Enhancements to pedestrian areas to make the entire experience more engaging for visitors.

The project is designed to transform the area from a collection of "point-to-point" destinations into a continuous, half-day experience for visitors.

### **Large Commemorative Element Committee**

**Dana Jones, Executive Director CPB**

A large-scale commemorative element is being planned for installation in 2027, a project that occurs only once every 100 years. The request for proposals (RFP) for this project is scheduled to go out in June.

The proposed plan to select the design for a new commemorative element involves creating a specialized committee to manage the process. This committee would be comprised of representatives from various state and local government entities, specifically:

- The Governor's Office
- The House
- The Senate
- The Judicial Branch
- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- The Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM)
- The Capitol Preservation Board (CPB)

The committee's primary objective is to manage the extensive review of proposals. Each participating entity will have one designated voting member on the committee. While a representative may have two or three individuals on the committee to sit in on discussions, only one individual per entity will be able to cast a vote. This structure ensures that a wide range of perspectives are represented while maintaining a clear and decisive voting process.

President Adams asked about the time commitment. Dana responded that the committee's work is scheduled to begin in September. During this time, the members will meet for several hours to score the proposals that have been submitted in response to the RFP. The goal is to rank the applicants and narrow the field down to a smaller number. In November, the committee will conduct half-hour interviews with the top five candidates, based on the September scoring. This phase is designed to allow for more in-depth presentations and a Q&A session with each finalist.

The final step for the committee is to make a recommendation to the full board at its January meeting. This recommendation will be a culmination of the scoring and interview process, providing the board with a highly vetted and carefully considered choice for this significant, once-in-a-century project. It is designated as an action item on the agenda, to ensure the process aligns with how the Board wants to select the Large Commemorative Element.

***Attorney General Brown moved to approve the formation of a committee as part of the process to select the Large Commemorative Element. The motion was seconded by Representative Dunnigan. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **Museum of Utah Update**

**Donna Law, Executive Director CCE**

The Museum of Utah, a division of the Utah Historical Society, is part of the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement. The project has an ongoing focus on both the physical construction and the development of educational content. A team consisting

of the Director of the historical society, the Museum Director, and a Project Manager is overseeing the work. While the construction is visible, a great deal of effort has gone into creating an enriching educational experience for visitors.

Tim Glenn, UHS Museum Director provided an update on the museum's development. A major milestone has been reached with the contracting of Capital Museum Services, a fabricator with a GSA contract and a history of working with federal institutions like the Smithsonian. A close working relationship exists between the fabricator and the project's designers. The fabricator was on-site measuring exhibition spaces and is expected to begin reviewing shop drawings for the exhibits soon. The plan is to begin painting and light installation in October, followed by a heavy install of the exhibits in November.

AV production for the museum is about 65–70% complete, with additional filming and interactive development ongoing. Tribal consultation has been a positive process, with meetings held with all eight federally recognized tribes.

A local events company, Powerhouse, has been contracted to plan a series of soft openings for stakeholders and a larger public celebration. A communications company, Boncom, has also been brought on to build public awareness and excitement.

Museum staff are actively designing educational programming, including field trips and adult programs, along with visitor services to enhance the visitor experience. The museum is also preparing for operations by purchasing items for the gift shop.

President Adams added that the North Capitol Building will be a new entryway to the iconic Utah State Capitol, and the aim is to build something worthy of its impressive counterpart.

***Treasurer Oaks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Attorney General Brown seconded the motion. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

The Capitol Preservation Board meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.