

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Historic Preservation and Museum Advisory Board held **January 5, 2026**, at the Museum of Uintah County at 155 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 4:34 pm.

Participants: Amber Koski, Stephanie Tippetts, Lee Buschkowsky

Attendance: Lana Fullbright, Alycia Luke, Nicole Zamora-Wilson, Marety Hill, Karina Valencia, Jessica Briggs

Minutes Recorded by Alycia Luke

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Amber Koski (Vice Chair):** Welcomed everyone and initiated introductions.
- **Amber Koski:** Shared her background with the Bureau of Land Management (20 years), experience as an archaeologist, NEPA specialist, and current role managing interstate energy projects.
- **Stephanie Tippetts:** A second-grade teacher at Terra with a degree in Humanities Fine Arts. She is also part of a local paranormal team.
- **Lana Fullbright:** Museum Curator for the Museum of Uintah County. She has been with the museum for 12 years and with the county for 25 years.
- **Alycia Luke:** Board Secretary and exhibit curator at the Museum of Uintah County.
- **Lee Buschkowsky:** Zone Safety Manager for five National Park units. He previously worked at Dinosaur National Monument for 10 years and served as Chief Ranger.
- **Nicole Zamora-Wilson:** New supervisor at the Regional History Center.
- **Marety Hill:** New Collections Manager and Registrar at the History Center.
- **Karina Valencia:** Representative from the Attorney's Office.
- **Jessica Briggs:** New board applicant (not yet appointed) and therapist at Northeastern Counseling with a background in Art History and Marketing.

2 & 3. Approval of Minutes and Appointments

- **Quorum:** The board did not have a quorum; therefore, the approval of previous minutes and board officer appointments were postponed.

4. Subcommittee Reports

5. St. Paul's Episcopal Church Project

- **Grant Status:** Amber updated the board on the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant. Last year, they secured a \$20,000 in-kind match grant for church conservation.
- **Current Progress:** An architect from SHPO conducted a walkthrough to identify immediate conservation needs for the 100-year-old church.
- **Next Steps:** The county is preparing a Request for Information (RFI) to be followed by a Request for Bids (RFB).

- **Upcoming Meeting:** A planning meeting at the church was scheduled for the following day (January 6) at 4:00 PM. Amber will forward invites to other board members to attend these meetings in the future.
- **Shared Folder:** Alycia will add the new board members to the shared folder on Google Drive.
- **County Building Display:** The RHC, along with Amber and the church are planning a display at the county building to promote the St. Paul's project, focusing on preservation and conservation.

6. Other Board Business

- **Planning for Fiscal Year:** With the resignation of Leann (the previous planning lead), Lee Buschkowsky volunteered to take over the planning subcommittee.
- **Goals:** Amber suggested identifying potential partners, outreach strategies, and ways to engage local youth with the museum and historic preservation.
- **Future Projects:** Mention was made of updating historical signs throughout town, and the "Bonanza" signs were also discussed. The latter have been taken care of.
- **Special Meeting:** Alycia will ask Nicole when Sonja is available for a special board meeting in the next week or two.

7. 2026 Museum Logo

- **Special Logo:** To celebrate the 250th anniversary (Semiquincentennial) in 2026, the museum revealed a temporary logo for the year.
- **Compliance:** The logo colors were confirmed to be ADA (508) acceptable for social media and digital use.

8. Museum Report

- **Digital Reach:** Alycia reported a massive increase in social media engagement. Facebook views grew from 20,000 to 156,000, and Instagram views grew from 616 to 17,000.
- **Upcoming Exhibits:** Six exhibits are planned for 2026, including a Smithsonian exhibition titled "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America" (August–October 2026).
- **Speaker Series:** The board discussed starting a speaker series ("MUConnect") in partnership with local experts.
- **Budget & Grants:** The museum received a \$20,000 general operating support grant and a \$5,000 project grant for the Smithsonian exhibition.

9. Public Comment and Adjournment

- **Public Comment:** No members of the public were present for comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

A special meeting will be forthcoming date TBD.

