

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Historic Preservation and Museum Advisory Board held **August 6, 2025**, at the Museum of Uintah County at 155 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 4:01 pm.

Participants: LeeAnn Denzer, Stephanie Tippetts, Amber Koski

Attendance: Lana Fullbright, and Karina Valencia
Minutes recorded by Alycia Luke

1. CLG Grant from USHPO

Amber Koski reported that the project with St. Paul's Episcopal Church was successfully funded through the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant from the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (USHPO).

- **Funding:** The board received \$20,000 for a proposed \$40,000 project.
- **Kickoff Meeting:** The grant kickoff meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 8th, at 11:00 AM at the church project site.
- **Architectural Assessment:** State Historic Architect Jansen will conduct an on-site assessment of the church features to produce a report on immediate damage and needs.
- **Videography Project:** The project will incorporate a videography component for preservation awareness, documenting the project from beginning to end.
- **Community Partnership:** LeAnn Denzer reported reaching out to community partners, including the coalition of churches and local feeding-the-hungry committees, to attend the kickoff meeting to engender additional donations and support.
- **Vernal City Preservation Board:** There is an effort to involve a representative from the potential Vernal City Preservation Board in the process. LeAnn Denzer will follow up with Taylor in the city office.
- **In-Kind Match:** The grant requires a \$20,000 in-kind match, which can be tracked through labor hours, materials, and other volunteer contributions.

2. Subcommittee and Next Steps for Preservation Project

- **Subcommittee Purpose:** The board agreed that subcommittees should be formed to address multifaceted needs, such as identifying community partners, organizing volunteer events, and handling press/public awareness.
- **Project Phases:** A subsequent board meeting will be called immediately after the architectural assessment report is received and approved by the county. This will allow the board to:
 - Review the report (identifying needs like chinking, mortar, wood beaming).
 - Zone in on high-impact priorities.
 - Plan volunteer projects (involving church groups, school groups, and contractors/builders who allocate volunteer hours).
- **County Financial Process:** Because the board is not a governing body, all grant monies must be processed through the County via the Clerk/Auditor's office (Gennie will

assist). Lana Fullbright will determine if the grant funds need to be run through the museum's grant line item in the budget.

- **Future Planning:** The board acknowledged this project serves as a "test case" for USHPO's revamped grant process. This work may open opportunities for future projects, including potential archaeological involvement due to the church's inclusion on the National Register.

3. Kiosks by the Gilsonite Mines

Lana Fullbright raised a question from the Regional History Center regarding the deteriorating signs on their kiosks near the Gilsonite Mines in Dragon.

- **Issue:** Metal signs are failing, warping, and hard to read; replacement cost is estimated at \$300 to \$400 per sign.
- **Discussion:** The board debated if the kiosks, which are on BLM land and were originally funded by a grant to the History Center, fall under the purview of the Historic Preservation Board.
- **Action:**
 - Karina Valencia (County Attorney's office) will follow up on the permissibility of the board/History Center soliciting donations or sponsorships for the sign replacement.
 - LeeAnn Denzer will obtain more information from the History Center on the original funding source, the historic parameters of the kiosks, and the extent of the requested assistance.
 - The board agreed this is an example of a potential long-term project for the preservation board to consider.

4. Museum Name Change (Informational)

Karina Valencia confirmed that the name change for the museum has been formally approved by the County Commission.

- **New Name:** Museum of Uintah County (MUC).
- **Next Steps:** The board can begin updating documents and the County ordinance will be cleaned up to remove the outdated "Heritage" reference.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, October 27, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.