

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Historic Preservation and Museum Advisory Board held **January 14, 2026**, at the Museum of Uintah County at 155 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 4:35 pm.

Participants: Amber Koski, Gabriela Salazar, Sonja Norton, Lee Buschkowsky, Stephanie Tippets, Hannah Glass

Attendance: Amber Koski, Karen England, Gabriela Salazar, Karina Valencia, Sonja Norton, Lee Buschkowsky, Alycia Luke, Stephanie Tippets, Hannah Glass

Introductions of New Board Members

- Gabriella Salazar introduced herself as an archaeologist with the BLM who has lived in Vernal for two years.
- Hannah Glass introduced herself as a marketing professional who recently moved to Vernal from Salt Lake City.

1. Approval of Minutes from July 14, 2025, August 6, 2025, October 27, 2025, and January 6, 2026

Motion: Lee Buschkowsky made a motion to approve the minutes for July 14, 2025, August 6, 2025, October 27, 2025, and January 6, 2026. Stephanie Tippets seconded the motion. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

2. Officer Appointments

Motion: Lee Buschkowsky made a motion for Amber Koski to be the Board Chair. Stephanie Tippets seconded the motion. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Motion: Stephanie Tippets made a motion for Lee Buschkowsky to be the Vice Chair. Sonja Norton seconded the motion. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Motion: Sonja Norton made a motion for Alycia Luke to remain as the Board Secretary. Lee Buschkowsky seconded the motion. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

The board appointed the following officers for the 2026 term:

- **Board Chair:** Amber Koski
- **Vice Chair:** Lee Bashkawski
- **Board Secretary:** Alicia Luke

3. 2026 Museum Logo

The board approved a special logo to be used during 2026 to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The museum will revert to its permanent logo in 2027.

Motion: Sonja Norton made a motion to approve the Museum of Uintah County's special logo for the year 2026. Stephanie Tippetts seconded the motion. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

4. Subcommittee Reports

- **CLG Grant:** Preparations are underway to release a request for information. Received the window specifications on the historic church project. Next step: releasing Request for Proposal (RFP) for the bid. Amber Koski will transition leadership of the grant implementation to the church and Karen England.
- **Annual Planning:** Lee wanted to learn more about what the board has done in the past. The board discussed the need for a strategic guiding document.

Discussion Items

5. Museum Donations and Fundraising

- **Donations:** Current credit card donations are processed through the museum's point-of-sale system. The board discussed implementing online donations and QR codes to simplify the process. Currently, the museum cannot do online payments through its POS system.
- **"Friends of the Museum":** The board suggested launching a membership program to increase community involvement and offer incentives such as gift shop discounts.
- **Document of Historic Places:** Alycia mentioned that Sam had a Google Sheet that had all of those places, she asked everyone that the document was sent to and no one downloaded it. We have lost access to it. Stephanie found the list.
- **Recap of Priorities:** Amber recapped the following: 1. Knowing and understanding what historic resources and features we have in the county. 2. How can we increase the revenue stream for the museum and possibly the Preservation Board.
 - Sonja also mentioned that outreach into the community would benefit the board. There are people interested.
 - Alycia mentioned that people that aren't board members can be on the subcommittees

- Amber wants to set a deadline for the guiding document for the vision of the board.
- **New Facility:** Karen shared long-term goals for a new, purpose-built museum and archive center, potentially located on county-owned land next to the Field House of Natural History Museum.

6. Historic Preservation

- **Historic Registry:** The board discussed the need to find and update the list of historic places and landmarks within Uintah County.
- **Community Outreach:** Plans were discussed for outreach events this year to celebrate the museum's 35th anniversary in June and the 125th anniversary of the historic church.

7. Museum Support

- **Pie in the sky ideas**
 - **New Facility:** Karen shared long-term goals for a new, purpose-built museum and archive center, potentially located on county-owned land next to the Field House of Natural History Museum.
 - **State Museum:** How did they get funding?
 - **Work session:** Schedule those to keep meetings to their hour.

8. Follow-up items from Karina regarding board bylaws and best practices

- There is an account for historic preservation with the Clerk Auditor's office
- If there is ever a time when we meet and a quorum isn't present, don't start the meeting
- Be mindful of not having a majority in ad hoc and subcommittee meetings
- The public can donate funds into the historic preservation line item if they go to the Clerk Auditor's office.
- Can the museum ask patrons if they would like to round up to the next dollar as a donation to the museum? Karen said she would talk to IT and Treasurers to get this going.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 2, 2026, at 4:30 PM.**