

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Historic Preservation and Museum Advisory Board held **May 4, 2026**, at the Museum of Uintah County at 155 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 4:33 pm.

Participants: Lee Buschkowsky, Stephanie Tippetts, Jessica Briggs, Sonja Norton

Attendance: Lee Buschkowsky, Alycia Luke, Nicole Zamora-Wilson, Jessica Briggs, Stephanie Tippetts, Lana Fullbright, Sonja Norton, Karen England, Karina Valencia.

1. Election of Officers

- **Resignation:** The board acknowledged the resignation of Amber Koski from the board, leaving a vacancy on the board, and in the position of board Chair.
- **Recruitment:** Discussion was held regarding a vacancy requiring professional credentials in archaeology, history, or architecture to maintain the board's professional balance per county ordinance. Lee Buschkowsky suggested reaching out to contacts at Utah State University (USU) for potential candidates.
- Election of Officers was tabled until the next meeting when the board will have a new member.

2. Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2026

- **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Photography, Filming, and Videography Policy (MUC)

- **Media Policy:** The board reviewed a proposed Photography, Filming, and Videography Policy designed to protect patron privacy (especially minors) while allowing documentation for promotional and educational purposes. The policy was tabled for a formal vote at the next meeting.

4. Docent Training opportunity for Museum on Main Street (MOMS) etc.

An upcoming training session led by the Utah Museum of Fine Arts will take place in August to prepare staff and volunteers for the "Museum on Main Street" Smithsonian exhibit.

- **Send info:** Alycia will send out info on the docent training opportunity when she has it.

5. Discuss revised bylaws document

- **Museum Strategy & Master Plan:** Lee Buschkowsky initiated a discussion regarding the lack of a current Strategic Plan and the need for clearly defined institutional priorities. Karen said she has been working on the strategic plan. The

- **Vision for "MUC":** Lana noted the museum's rebranding to the Museum of Uintah County (MUC). The board discussed moving beyond 19th-century history to include modern community history. Lana mentioned that we collected things from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we would like to move into a more modern direction.
- **Bylaws Document:** This document will be voted on at the next meeting.

6. Report on Subcommittees

- **The Gibson-Sowards House:** Lee Buschkowsky presented a report on this 1891 Victorian frame house, noting its status on the National Register of Historic Places. Serious structural concerns were identified, including a settling foundation and crumbling sandstone. The current owners (descendants of the Sowards family) have expressed interest in a partnership for preservation or potential donation.
- **Hiram "Patience" Meeks Property:** A log home in Jensen was identified as a potential preservation site, though current owners expressed liability concerns.
- Want to talk with Lesha to collaborate and do a tour of cool historic places in the county.
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7. St. Paul's Episcopal Church Project

- **Report:** The project is officially out for bid. Commissioner Norton reported that communication with the church has improved and is now centralized through a single liaison, Kathy. Fundraising efforts for the full restoration of the church need to be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Community Collaboration:** The board discussed reviving walking tour kiosks or mobile apps to link historical sites throughout the county.

8. Other Board Business

- **Signage:** A proposal to install banners with the new MUC logo over existing exterior "Heritage Museum" signage was discussed to modernize the building's facade without damaging the underlying structure.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn.

- **Motion:** Stephanie Tippetts
- **Second:** Jessica Briggs

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 6, 2026, at 4:30 PM.**