

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Whitaker Museum Board meeting held Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at
2 5:00 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5 Jim Morgan, Chair
6 Robin Jensen
7 Nancy Smith
8 Blair Parrish
9 Spencer Packer

10
11 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

12 Jana Taylor
13 Alyson Childs

14
15 **STAFF PRESENT**

16 Lisa Linn Sommer, Whitaker Museum Director
17 Robyn Mecham, City Council Liaison

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19 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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21 Minutes of the May 26, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Robin Jensen made a **motion** to
22 approve the minutes. Blair Parrish seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (5-
23 0).

24
25 **REPORT ON JUNE EVENTS**

26
27 *Tea Party*

28
29 The Tea Party was held on June 6th and sold out within approximately one and a half weeks
30 of tickets going on sale April 20th - faster than any prior year. The event capacity was set at 120,
31 but attendance reached 148, which the Director Sommer noted created operational strain and
32 expressed a preference for returning to the 120-person limit in future years. The Board concurred
33 that the smaller cap produced a better experience for both attendees and volunteers.

34
35 A notable incident occurred ten minutes before the event concluded when three tents were
36 lifted by wind and displaced, with individuals still seated beneath them. No serious injuries were
37 reported, though one attendee was struck. The Board discussed the need for more substantial tent
38 staking in the future, noting that the standard stakes provided with the tents are insufficient in
39 windy conditions. The tents, which were city property, were damaged beyond repair, though it was
40 noted that salvageable parts were retained by the city for use in repairing other equipment.

41
42 Despite these issues, the event was broadly considered a success. The America 250 theme
43 was incorporated through activities centered on George Washington's female spies, including a
44 lemon juice invisible ink activity and a quilt giveaway organized in collaboration with Centerville's
45 Quilt Group, headed by Debbie Randall. The Board noted that improvements to the event's overall
46 logistics are being discussed and will be addressed at a future meeting.

Pioneer PeeWee Camp

Director Sommer reported that the PeeWee Pioneer Camp was held on the first two Tuesdays and Thursdays of June, serving children in the year prior to kindergarten. Sessions averaged nine to ten children and featured hands-on activities, including cabin-building with Lincoln Logs, items from a period trunk, outdoor play, and a treat. The program was led in part by Jana Taylor, who connected warmly with the children. A fuller report was deferred to allow Jana Taylor to present at a future meeting.

DUP/RS Family Reunion Tours

A relief society group traveled from Wyoming to tour the museum. The group included a member with a family connection to the museum's history, and they visited the museum, the DUP cabin, and Taggart's restaurant. Director Sommer described the tour as a positive experience for all involved.

Garden Report

Director Sommer reported that the museum gardens are in good condition. The Parks Department has been attentive and helpful. Bruce Cox has been operating a tractor to maintain pathways through the garden, and water usage has been managed responsibly by gardening volunteers. The Board expressed appreciation for the Parks Department's support.

A question was raised regarding responsibility for changing the museum's air filters. It was clarified that this duty was previously handled by Bruce Cox and has since been reassigned to Cameron Woodbury, who now oversees building maintenance for all city facilities. Director Sommer committed to following up with Cameron Woodbury directly to ensure he is aware of the museum's maintenance needs.

REVIEW UPCOMING EVENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

July 3rd: Smith (Founders) Park Events

Director Sommer noted that the July 3rd events at Smith (Founders) Park does not directly involve the museum, but was shared for the Board's awareness. There would be a children's parade, concert, food trucks, and a movie. Councilmember Mecham shared her concern that the event, while a positive effort by the city, would not replicate the experience of the traditional Fourth of July celebration. Additionally, the Board discussed concerns about crowd management on the Fourth itself, noting that in prior years Centerville had drawn exceptionally large crowds when surrounding cities held their fireworks on different dates.

July 4th: Parade/Museum Yard and Pop-up Museum at Community Park

1 Director Sommer reported plans for the Museum's July 4th pop-up at Community Park,
2 which will feature an America 250 theme. The display will include a fan handout highlighting
3 Centerville's historic names and upcoming museum events, along with a table for selling local
4 history books. Board members provided suggestions to improve the fan design by adding context
5 and presenting historical names chronologically. Discussion also focused on the lengthy event
6 schedule, with the Board agreeing that the pop-up should close during the slower afternoon hours
7 and reopen for evening activities. Members encouraged staff to ensure the museum is included on
8 official event maps and advertising.

9
10 The Board also discussed future July 4th planning, including the possibility of moving the
11 pop-up museum to the July 3rd Smith (Founders) Park event in future years due to the cooler
12 evening temperatures, local audience, and shorter commitment. For the Museum's July
13 programming, the Board supported an America 250 exhibit focused on the founding of the United
14 States, including the Declaration of Independence and founding fathers, with ideas such as
15 displaying a reproduction document and incorporating visitor trivia.

16 17 **DISCUSSION – COUNTIES AND SALT LAKE LDS TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE 2027**

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19 Director Sommer reported that initial information had suggested the LDS Church was
20 coordinating with counties to encourage visitation to local landmarks and communities in
21 connection with the 2027 Salt Lake Temple open house. Upon direct contact with the Church,
22 however, it was clarified that this was not an official Church initiative. Despite this, the Board
23 discussed the opportunity to align museum programming and outreach with the anticipated influx
24 of visitors to the region.

25
26 The open house is expected to run from approximately April through October 2027. Board
27 members noted that Discover Davis has already been in contact, seeking to direct temple visitors
28 to communities throughout Davis County. The Board expressed interest in developing a 2027 event
29 outline centered on this theme, including a potential brochure highlighting Centerville's historical
30 ties to the early LDS Church. Specific ideas raised included identifying Centerville residents who
31 contributed to the temple's construction and featuring their stories, as well as hosting a lecture
32 series on the temple's 40-year construction history and architectural symbolism, similar to a well-
33 received series held in 2013. Board members noted that the Olympics and ski industry connections
34 could also be incorporated into broader regional promotional efforts.

35 36 **BOARD REPORTS**

37
38 Nancy Smith reported that, per communication from City Attorney Lisa Romney, the
39 recommendation regarding the Historic Preservation chapter of the city's General Plan is that it
40 should not be directed to Mike Eggett, but rather presented directly to the City Council when that
41 chapter comes up for discussion during the General Plan update process. Board members were
42 encouraged to notify Ms. Romney in advance so she can present the material, and to attend in
43 support if possible. It was noted that the General Plan update process is expected to begin in
44 August, with chapters addressed incrementally thereafter. The timeline for when the historic
45 preservation chapter will be reached remains unknown.

ADJOURN

At 6:04 p.m., Chair Morgan made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Spencer Packer seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

Jennifer Robison
Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

08/26/2026
Date Approved

