



**CAPITOL PRESERVATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
Capitol Board Room**

Board Members in attendance:

Governor Spencer Cox
President Stuart Adams
Speaker Mike Schultz
Representative Jennifer Dailey-Provost
Representative Jim Dunnigan
SHPO Director Christopher Merritt

Board Members attending remotely:

State Treasurer Marlo Oaks
Senator Jennifer Plumb
Senator Kirk Cullimore

Board Members excused:

Attorney General Derek Brown
Justice Jill Pohlman

Capitol Preservation Board Office:

Dana Jones	Stephanie Angelides	Aubrey Vincent
Lana Parker	Melissa Bennett	
Jacob Stark	Sarah Doherty	

Others

Sam Adams	Robert Hanson	Jeff Pew
Tanja Akiyama	Brenda Hickman	Chief Jon Pierpont
Steve Allred, LFA	Sabin Howard	Kat Potter, CCE
Jonathan Ball, LFA	Robyn Kremer	David Rogers, DFCM
Ryan Beck	Kaden Madson	Traci Slatton
Melissa Benn	Dallin Malm	Jamie Sorenson,
Alex Burton	Andy Marr, DFCM	Shane Stephenson
Brian Cassil	Kade Minchey, OLAG	Paul Tonks, AGO
Abby Craig	Charlie Mostow	Lieutenant Ryan Van Fleet
Olivia Craig	Wayne Niederhauser	David Wicai, CCE
Michael Despain	Chase Olson	Erin Wynn
Kevin Fayles	Jennifer Ortiz, UHS	Jeff Wrigley, DFCM
Tim Glenn, UHS	Abigail Orton, GOPB	Heather Zang
Max Gruber	Aundrea Peterson, Senate	

Call to Order

Governor Cox called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of minutes from the September 15, 2025 and December 15, 2025 Capitol Preservation Board Meetings.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the September 15, 2025 and December 15, 2025 Capitol Preservation Board meetings by Representative Dunnigan. The motion was seconded by President Adams. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Capitol Hill Lobbyist Association Lease Amendment 6

Paul Tonks, Assistant Attorney General

Amendment 6 is the renewal of the Capitol Hill Lobbyist Association's continued use of a room within the Capitol.

President Adams moved to approve the Capitol Hill Lobbyist Association Lease Amendment 6. The motion was seconded by Chris Merritt. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Treasurer Oaks abstaining.

Naming the North Capitol Building

President Stuart Adams & Speaker Mike Schultz

President Adams served in the Legislature with Governor Leavitt and observed the broad vision and innovative processes introduced to the state. The Capitol Preservation Board was initiated during the Leavitt tenure, and a plan was established for the protection and care of the Capitol complex. Given the role Governor Leavitt played in creating the Capitol Preservation Board, the proposal suggests it is fitting for the Board to consider naming the North Capitol Building to honor the former Governor.

Speaker Schultz agreed with President Adams, highlighting that Governor Leavitt was a three-term governor, a two-time cabinet secretary, and the founder of the Capitol Preservation Board. Speaker Schultz also noted the impact of the Leavitt administration on the state economy, the 2002 Olympics, and the creation of Western Governors University. The foundations laid during that time in office have led to the current success of the state.

Governor Cox expressed that when approached about renaming the North Capitol Building, the name Michael Leavitt was the only one that came to mind. Utah has been named the number one state for economic outlook for 19 consecutive years. In the early 1990s, the state economy was transformed during the three-term leadership of Governor Leavitt. The engineering initiative launched for the tech sector has been a major driver of the economy, and Utah has been a beneficiary of higher education initiatives that added engineering opportunities for younger generations.

Additionally, Governor Cox mentioned that a small group of Utahns has an influence on the federal level. Secretary Michael Leavitt served with distinction, impacting employees' lives and improving the nation through the work performed during that tenure. It is a worthy recognition of which Utahns can be proud.

Speaker Schultz and President Adams spoke of the lasting impact and benefit of Western Governors University for students and teachers. Governor Leavitt spearheaded the creation of the online, competency-based education system. Other programs, such as highway funds, have also benefited the state.

Representative Dunnigan believes Governor Leavitt is worthy of consideration but expressed concerns regarding the process. Representative Dunnigan would have preferred time for deliberation and discussion before settling on a name, noting that the notice in the agenda did not invite sufficient input.

Treasurer Oaks stated that prior to establishing precedent, the board should first establish standards for naming buildings on Capitol Hill. The building constitutes a permanent public asset owned by taxpayers and is intended for use by the state for generations. Many governments and institutions avoid naming major public assets after living individuals to allow history, rather than current politics, to be the guide. Waiting until an individual is deceased helps avoid the appearance of political favor or decisions influenced by temporary circumstances.

Naming policies and waiting periods exist in many locations because reputational issues and historical perspectives can change over time. The facility is not merely office space; as one of the most historically significant public sites in Utah, the site should be treated with an institutional and lawful perspective. Consideration must be given to the proper threshold for naming a major capital building, including the level of involvement in consulting and the requirement for legislative approval. While Governor Leavitt served honorably, the matter at hand is broader than any single individual and requires the state to maintain a consistent philosophy for naming public assets. Without established precedent, future boards may have difficulty determining appropriate actions. A formal naming policy could help ensure consistency, neutrality, and long-term institutional credibility.

Principles should come before precedent. Naming decisions should reflect the fact that the institution belongs to the people of Utah, not to any single administration or office holder. If movement occurs without standards, future boards will inherit the consequences of the current decision-making climate.

Representative Dailey-Provost asked if the Board was responsible for renaming the House Building to the Rebecca D. Lockhart House Building. The response clarified that the Legislature was responsible for that renaming decision.

President Adams moved that the North Capitol Building be renamed the Michael O. Leavitt Building. The motion was seconded by Speaker Schultz. Governor Cox proposed an amendment to the motion that the Capitol Preservation Board work together to draft a consistent policy for renaming buildings that can be applied for future use. The amendment was approved by President Adams and again seconded by Speaker Schultz. No further discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pioneer Trail Foundation

Ryan Beck

There are many examples of trails around the world in cities such as Boston, New York, San Francisco, and London. The intent is to follow the pattern of these locations by building a heritage walking trail to capture the history and character of the area. Field Operations, a highly awarded landscape architecture firm with global experience in trail projects, met recently with stakeholders. The firm expressed a positive outlook regarding the collaborative effort to complete the trail prior to the Temple Square open house.

The trail begins at the southwest corner of Temple Square, proceeds along South Temple to North State Street, and loops down Canyon Road. Including Temple Square as a direct part of the trail incorporates a significant historical asset and captures pedestrian traffic from the new SEG entertainment district.

Phase one extends from the southwest corner of Temple Square to the Museum of Utah. Areas of impact in this phase include the North State Street corridor, Council Hall, Market Plaza, White Memorial Chapel, and a lookout. Phase two involves the Memory Grove area.

To extend the budget, outreach was made to O.C. Tanner, resulting in an agreement to provide plaques for the trail. Additional outreach to Rio Tinto and Kennecott regarding the provision of a copper [brass] line is currently underway.

Representative Dunnigan expressed support for the copper line but noted that the brick line on the Boston Trail is bumpy, making it difficult to cross and requires constant upkeep. The hope is that the copper line will provide a smooth crossing. President Adams noted the importance of capturing the traffic that comes to the conventions at the Salt Palace, by extending the line. Ryan Beck stated that is the plan to discuss at an upcoming meeting with Pentagram, of how to either extend the line or provide way-finding signage in the convention area to draw traffic to the trail. The garden design from Field Operations demonstrates a high level of sophistication. Each block possesses unique characteristics regarding sunlight interaction, and a solar analysis was conducted to determine specific shade profiles. Native perennials were selected for each area to ensure zero-failure planting. The gardens are intended for year-round interest through seasonal blooming. The roundabout landscape would utilize a rock garden motif. The main floor of Council Hall will be converted into a restaurant. Milo Carrier, owner of Arlo and a James Beard Award-nominated chef, has agreed to open a second restaurant at this location. The second floor will feature a debate hall and a bookstore dedicated to foundational texts on free expression, democracy, and western liberalism. This relationship between the bookstore and debate hall is intended to facilitate public engagement and civil debate.

In response to inquiries from Representative Dunnigan regarding the location and maintenance of flower beds, Ryan Beck explained that the beds would be located along North State Street, in the roundabout, and surrounding Council Hall. Salt Lake City has agreed to maintain all elements within the city right-of-way, while the Capitol Preservation Board is expected to maintain the beds surrounding Council Hall.

The Foundation has partnered with an operator for a summer farmers market, scheduled to open next year in conjunction with the Temple open house, as well as a five-week Christmas market starting this year.

Representative Dailey-Provost questioned the level of community engagement regarding the project. Ryan Beck reported having met with the Capitol Neighborhood Council four times, with an additional presentation scheduled in two weeks. Outreach also included two meetings each with the Greater Avenues Council and the Memory Grove Foundation. Furthermore, Mr. Beck reported knocking on every door adjacent to the trail and providing a contact number.

Speaker Schultz questioned who has final approval of the monuments along the trail. Ryan Beck expected that landowners would retain final authority over monument approval. Speaker Schultz recommended the formation of a group to oversee monument decisions. Mr. Beck noted that the Foundation maintains a stakeholder advisory group and expressed openness to adding new members. President Adams expressed support for maintaining continuity and a unified vision for the coordination and placement of monuments.

Dana Jones clarified that the boulders in the roundabout landscaping should not be placed too close to the perimeter to avoid inviting pedestrians into the roundabout. Senator Plumb expressed concern regarding the relocation of the Travel Council due to the changes at Council Hall. Governor Cox clarified that the relocation of the Travel Council was approved through the Executive Branch and that the Travel Council will join the GOED office space. While noting this was not a Board decision, the Governor welcomed the expression of these concerns, and hoped they were resolved.

Speaker Schultz moved to approve phase 1 progressing forward, with committee oversight of markers and monuments by stakeholders. Committee members would be a combination of representatives from state, city, philanthropists, art, & landowners. The motion was seconded by President Adams. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Senator Plumb abstaining.

Museum of Utah Update

Tim Glenn, Museum of Utah Director

The Museum would like to rename two classrooms in the North Capitol Building, after influential educators. Emma McVicker was an early education advocate in the 19th century around statehood, advocating for kindergarten. Ruby James Price lived in Layton for 73 years and she was an advocate for education, and was very active in the community.

The second action item is for approval of banner design on the exterior north side of the North Capitol Building. Banners would range in size between 60-72 inches.

Variations in banners show artifacts in the museum or the other banners highlight the different galleries-introducing what the galleries are.

Speaker Schultz preferred the banners with less color in keeping with the simple design of the North Capitol Building. Representative Dailey-Provost recommended taking the small text off of the banner. Representative Dunnigan liked the colorful banners, and thought the wording could be removed. Speaker Schultz asked what the Museum likes best. Tim Glenn indicated which banner grouping the Museum is partial to. Dana Jones noted on group 2 the Mormon Meteor was not in the same sepia tone as the rest of the group.

Representative Dunnigan moved to approve the 1st set of banners. Representative Dailey-Provost seconded the motion. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Dailey Provost moved to approve renaming the Museum classrooms to honor Emma McVicker and Ruby James Price. Chris Merritt seconded the motion. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim added that the exhibits are on track for opening. Installation of exhibits is reaching the final stages. The Mormon Meteor was placed in the museum on April 18th. There will be several preview events happening in June for the museum. June 2nd is a preview event for elected officials, and invites for the VIP dinner on June 25th will be sent soon for Capitol Preservation Board members. Representative Dailey-Provost noted that June 27th is the grand opening of the Museum, an exciting full-day festival event for the public and should get word out to the community.

Large Commemorative Element Update

Dana Jones, Executive Director CPB

Last December, four groups presented proposals to the Large Commemorative Element Committee. Two proposals were selected to advance: the Golden Spike Monument and Utah's Monumental Women. After further evaluation of the scope and proposed designs, it became clear that the proposals exceeded the spatial limits and tolerances of the locations identified in the grounds placement guidelines. Due to these limitations, the Capitol Preservation Board is identifying new locations and drafting specific size parameters. This information will be presented at the next Board meeting for approval. Once the updates are approved, both finalists will be invited to refine the proposals to align with the new site requirements.

While the grounds guideline encompass Capitol Hill proper, the guidelines do not include the adjacent property across the street. For example, the sculpture "A Path Forward," placed at Council Hall, did not fall within the grounds placement guidelines. The proposal by Sabin Howard would be situated off the main Capitol grounds and is unrelated to the Large Commemorative Element selection, as a separate request.

Grand Liberty Arch Proposal

Sabin Howard

After a nine-and-a half year project, working with 360 global teams, Sabin Howard completed the National World War I Memorial in Washington D.C., on time and on budget. Senator Mike Lee sat next to Sabin Howard at the unveiling of the monument and later called Sabin, encouraging a visit to Utah. Sabin Howard came to Utah, and felt it was the right place to create the next monument in service to the country and bring pride to the people and history.

Sabin worked on the project for the last year-and-a-half, and invested heavily to make the current model. To give proportion to the scale of the model, the monument is 60 feet across with 56 figures. The 5 figures on top of the arch are a 10-and-a-half foot scale. The figures on the reliefs are eight foot scale. The idea is to do something that is kinetic, elevating and that becomes a destination monument- encompassing Utah's values of faith, family and country.

Sabin Howard presented the Grand Liberty Arch, a monument designed to link the house of the people with the story of the people. The structure utilizes a Beaux-Arts circular system with a central focal point from which narrative elements expand. The interior walls of the monument will feature inscribed text from the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, illuminated by a light symbolizing an eternal flame to represent the ongoing maintenance of freedom.

The narrative progression of the monument is depicted through various scenes and figures. The front-facing side represents the inception of the country. A flag is raised above the structure, with Lady Liberty's torch serving as the highest point at 36.5 feet above the ground. In this scene, Lady Liberty pulls a man forward while a British Redcoat attempts to hold the man back. George Washington is featured here as the only specific historical figure on the monument.

On the opposite side, the signing of the Declaration of Independence is depicted. Lady Liberty is shown as the inspiration for the "Committee of Five." This section includes the Liberty Bell and a citizen undergoing a "metamorphosis" from a subject to a free individual, illustrating the transition into a space requiring faith and courage.

The side panels serve as a transitional moment, moving from conceptual freedom to the events of the 1860s. These panels include depictions of Emancipation and a conflict between a Native person and a settler. Another scene represents the Civil War, showing Confederate and Union soldiers struggling over the flag, followed by a Union soldier holding a dying Confederate soldier.

The section focused on the West and Utah features a portal representing westward movement. Lady Liberty leads the frame of the transcontinental railroad, surrounded by symbols of agricultural abundance and a man holding a Bible. Two large figures representing "the builders," a father building a home and a mother building a family with a child on her back, represent the foundational units of the community.

The final scene transitions into the 20th century and beyond. Modern man is shown under the flag, with civil liberties represented by two Black men and a woman. The progression concludes with a soldier, modeled after a real-life amputee from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, leading a forward movement. In this concluding section, Lady Liberty no longer pulls the figures forward, suggesting that the responsibility for liberty now rests with the citizens. A child holding a space helmet represents the future and the next generation.

Speaker Schultz expressed support for the monument and the triangle location but requested clarification on whether a choice was required between the Grand Liberty Arch and the other two Large Commemorative monuments. Governor Cox clarified that because the property is not part of the main Capitol complex, the property is not subject to the same rules for grounds placement. The Board retains the option to select this as the only major monument or to adopt this monument while still pursuing another large monument, once engineering determines placement. Dana Jones added that the Grand Liberty Arch is separate from the other two monument proposals.

Representative Dailey-Provost inquired about leaving the Capitol campus space empty of a Large Commemorative Element for the time being. Governor Cox confirmed that this is an option. Sabin Howard noted that, if approved, the monument would be completed prior to the Olympics.

President Adams made a motion to approve the Grand Liberty Arch, but delay any decision of the other monuments on the Capitol Complex.

Representative Dunnigan asked for the status of the Golden Spike and Utah's Monumental Women projects. Governor Cox confirmed that those projects are on hold pending a study of new locations and parameters. Following the study, the Board will decide whether to move forward with one of those monuments or to forgo the additional large monument.

Representative Dunnigan asked about the financing for the project. Sabin Howard noted that Scott Anderson is working to secure funding. Additionally, JLL, an international real estate company, has been retained for fundraising. Two million dollars has been raised without land secured, and confidence was expressed that the project's reputation will facilitate full funding.

The total funding requirement is approximately \$50 million over a seven-year period, including \$22 million for the sculpture, \$14 million for casting, and approximately \$13 million for architecture. Family foundations and large corporations are expected to fund the monument. Scott Anderson expressed confidence that the funds will be raised privately. President Adams noted that no public money has been appropriated for the monument, nor is there an expectation of state funding.

Representative Dunnigan proposed an amendment to the motion specifying that the money for the monument must be raised privately. President Adams agreed to the amendment to the motion. Representative Dailey-Provost seconded the amended motion.

Speaker Schultz expressed that a monument of this scale, along with the addition of another large monument could constrain use of the space for future generations, but along with President Adams and Governor Cox, believed it best to defer a final decision. Rather than eliminating the Large Commemorative Element now, opted instead to revisit the proposals at a later date.

Chris Merritt commented that a monument of such grand scale in that same quadrant would likely lead the Board to the same conclusion regarding additional placements. It was suggested that deciding now would save significant time for CPB staff, DFCM, and the proposing groups who would otherwise need to reconfigure their plans. While not stating that an additional monument would clutter the grounds, the observation was made that several additions in a short period would be significant; rather, the preference was to finalize the decision now to save time and effort.

Representative Dailey-Provost emphasized the importance of community involvement. Sabin Howard agreed that the art is for the people and reported that school outreach has already commenced, and is 100% on board with community involvement.

No further discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chris Merritt made a motion that, given the approval of the Grand Liberty Arch, to not move forward with the Large Commemorative Element, pausing it indefinitely. Speaker Schultz seconded the motion. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Merritt. No discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Capitol Preservation Board meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.