Minutes of the Centerville City Whitaker Museum Board meeting held Tuesday, August 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Nancy Smith
Blair Parrish
Jana Taylor
Alyson Childs

MEMBERS ABSENT
Spencer Packer
Jim Morgan, Chair
Robin Jensen

STAFF PRESENT
Lisa Linn Sommer, Whitaker Museum Director
Robyn Mecham, City Council Liaison
Bryce King, Administrative Services Director

VISITORS
Craig Preston

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Blair Parrish made a **motion** to approve the minutes. Jana Taylor seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (4-0).

JULY AND AUGUST EVENTS

Freedom Festival

Museum Director Lisa Sommer reported on the museum's participation in the Freedom Festival via a pop-up museum. Approximately 400 wristbands were printed and distributed, featuring the museum's America 250 mission. Educational displays centered on two themes: the Shoshone Nation's historical presence in the Centerville area, including their hunting grounds near the Great Salt Lake, and George Washington's Culper Spy Ring, with a focus on the women who played key roles in passing intelligence. Children were also engaged through a bracelet-making activity using spiritually significant colors of the Shoshone Nation, with over 400 bracelets distributed. The event was noted to have slowed by 2:00 PM due to heat, and wrapped up by 5:00 PM.

Medicine Wheel Hike

Guest Craig Preston reported on the Medicine Wheel Hike, which he attended in place of Director Sommer. The hike was described as approximately one and a half hours round trip and of moderate difficulty. Upon reaching the site, participants observed a circular rock formation with spoke-like features that is potentially of Shoshone or Fremont origin, though no definitive attribution has been confirmed. The University of Utah previously examined the site with Centerville historian Royce Allen and noted it could plausibly be attributed to either culture.

Attendance was lower than anticipated, which was attributed primarily to the summer heat. Comparatively, a spring hike to pictograph sites drew approximately 40 participants. The Board discussed ideas for improving future hike attendance, including posting notices at trailheads and partnering with the city's tree and trail committees. Director Sommer suggested organizing two hikes in the spring and two in the fall, and proposed the addition of QR-code audio tours at trailheads telling the history of Centerville's canyons and the families for whom they were named.

Open Mic and Car Show

Director Sommer reported that the Open Mic and Car Show held on August 14th was a success despite a weather scare at 5:00 PM that prompted other Salt Lake-area events to cancel. The museum held off on cancellation, and by 6:30 PM conditions had cleared entirely. The event began with four cars and grew to sixteen vehicles, sponsored by York Automotive whose owner brought multiple vehicles throughout the evening. Attendance was estimated at approximately 100 people, and the event continued until 9:45 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER

Heritage Faire Day – Thursday, September 3

Director Sommer provided a detailed preview of the Heritage Faire, scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd, beginning at 6:00 PM and running until dusk. The event will focus on the Revolutionary War era and will feature sixteen historical flags tracing the evolution from early English colonial flags through American independence. A presenter from Kaysville will portray Betsy Ross and demonstrate the origin of the five-pointed star on the American flag. Revolutionary War reenactors will portray both British soldiers and Colonial Minutemen, and will fire black powder muskets and a period cannon. Additional activities will include a petting zoo, period-appropriate games, a mountain man demonstration, complimentary melons and ice cream, and a portrayal of Paul Revere by Bruce Smith. A fourteen-foot-tall scale model of the Old North Church, built by a local family and featuring two lanterns, will be displayed in the museum yard, on loan from its current location in Layton. A recent social media post promoting the event had garnered over 7,000 views.

The Board also noted that the museum's text subscriber list had grown from 64 to 149 since the last meeting, and that a recent text blast reached 906 recipients with a high delivery rate.

Date Night – Friday, September 18

Director Sommer reported that the Bonsai Date Night class on Friday, September 18th has only two spots remaining at $13 per person. Board members were encouraged to spread the word.

GARDEN REPORT

Director Sommer raised a concern that due to the unusually hot summer, gardeners are finishing their plots earlier than usual, and that city water to the garden will be shut off in mid-September rather than the customary end of October. She indicated a need to coordinate with Parks Director Bruce Cox to arrange the garden cleanup dumpster trailer earlier than the typical October 20th date. Director Sommer noted that improper use of the museum's regular dumpster for garden waste was already becoming an issue, and confirmed she would contact Bruce Cox to arrange a suitable schedule.

RAP PROJECT FY2026 UPDATE

Summer kitchen siding and moisture barrier

Director Sommer reported that the summer kitchen siding and moisture barrier project has been approved and is ready to begin. Work is scheduled to commence the Friday following the Heritage Faire.

Bay Window preservation

The bay window preservation project is pending finalization of product selection, with an emphasis on choosing materials that will provide the greatest longevity.

REPORT OF FIELDTRIP

Ephraim, Spring City, Manti, Sage Canyon, Draper

Director Sommer and Nancy Smith reported on a field trip taken to Ephraim, Spring City, Manti, Sage Canyon, and Draper to survey heritage barns, museums, and historic structures. The Mapleton Heritage Museum was also referenced as a notable example, featuring an Edmund Whiting home, a historic barn, and a blacksmith shop. The Board expressed strong interest in organizing a group visit to Mapleton, with Bryce King offering the use of a city vehicle. The visit was framed as fact-finding to inform future planning for the Whitaker Museum's own facility development.

Take-away Discussion

The Board discussed the feasibility of constructing a barn or covered outdoor structure at the Whitaker Museum to provide a weather-protected space for events, noting that the project would require significant fundraising and potentially a phased approach. The Board also reviewed the tentative 2027 event calendar and agreed that members would review the calendar independently and provide feedback to Director Sommer by email. Discussion highlights included

Women's History Month, additional audio tour stations and oral history recordings, a veteran headstone and medallion initiative, continued annual events, Freedom Festival participation, cemetery tours, and options for next year's Museum After Dark event. The Board also discussed a potential $400,000 federal digitization grant and its possible uses for recording equipment, digitization stations, expanded audio tours, and museum displays.

Director Sommer reported that Ron Randall's family had contacted the museum regarding his historical archives, and the Board expressed interest in obtaining or digitizing the materials. Bryce King recognized Haley Turner's work on the museum website and event calendar and provided an update on the City's forthcoming geographic notification system. The Board also discussed the Davis County Museum network pamphlet and a connection between Centerville's history and Daniel Davis through the cottage silk industry. Finally, the Board discussed the pending electrical panel replacement at the museum and agreed that the work should be scheduled for a different week than the Heritage Faire to ensure the museum remained operational for the event.

BOARD REPORTS

Nancy Smith reported that she had contacted Parks Director Bruce Cox regarding a pine tree on the museum property that appears diseased. Lower branches had turned brown and been removed the previous year, and the issue has since progressed upward with visible sap. Bruce Cox indicated he would inspect the tree and advise on treatment or removal.

Bryce King noted that the city's risk management company had recommended that tasteful historical signage be installed at the museum asking visitors to stay off of equipment. He asked the Board to provide input on wording and design, with a preference for signage placed at entry points rather than on individual pieces of equipment.

Mr. King also provided an update on the Historic Preservation Commission. Following the City Council's recent action on the landmarks committee, he noted that the volunteer application on the city website has been updated to reflect both the Whitaker Museum Board and the Historic Preservation Commission as separate entities. Council member Mecham was encouraged to send a written communication to fellow council members clarifying the composition and purpose of the Board, including the value of having non-resident descendants of the Whitaker family and other subject-matter experts serve on it.

ADJOURN

At 6:21 p.m., Jana Taylor made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Alyson Childs seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (4-0).

Jennifer Robison
Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

09/29/2026
Date Approved