

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Whitaker Museum Board meeting held Tuesday, March 24, 2026,
2 at 5:00 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville,
3 Utah.

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5 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

6 Alyson Childs
7 Nancy Smith
8 Blair Parrish
9 Jana Taylor
10 Robin Jensen, Vice Chair

11
12 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

13 Spencer Packer
14 Jim Morgan, Chair

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16 **STAFF PRESENT**

17 Robyn Mecham, City Council Liaison
18 Bryce King, Administrative Services Director
19 Haley Turner, Community Services Manager
20 Lisa Linn Sommer, Whitaker Museum Director

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22 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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24 Minutes of the February 24, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Nancy Smith made a **motion**
25 to approve the minutes. Jana Taylor seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote
26 (6-0).

27
28 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

29
30 **March 2026 Events – “A Century of Centerville Women”**

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32 Director Lisa Sommer reported on the success of "A Century of Centerville Women" event,
33 which had drawn over 200 visitors throughout March. The exhibit attracted all ages, from children
34 to a 98-year-old attendee, with activity day groups participating. Due to the positive response and
35 continued interest, the museum decided to extend the exhibit through the first week of April.

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37 Ms. Sommer highlighted that visitors came from across the region, including families from
38 Pennsylvania, Las Vegas, and Washington State, demonstrating the broad appeal of the women's
39 history focus. Many visitors initially planned to stay 30-60 minutes but remained for the entire
40 duration of their visit. The event also generated valuable historical connections, with one visitor
41 providing additional research materials to board members.

42

1 Ms. Sommer also reported on ongoing facility improvements, noting that missionaries had
2 volunteered to help with grounds maintenance. Flower beds had been weeded, and the parks
3 department, led by Michael Higgins, had installed gravel and railroad ties to create borders around
4 the smokehouse. Additional missionary groups were scheduled to continue landscaping work
5 around the gardens.

6
7 **BOARD REPORTS**

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9 General Plan on Historic Preservation

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11 Board member Nancy Smith, working with other members, presented a comprehensive
12 analysis of proposed changes to the city's general plan regarding historic preservation. She
13 explained that the current draft proposal consisted of only three pages, primarily focused on a
14 Deuel Creek walking/biking tour, which represented a significant reduction from the previous
15 eight-page historic preservation chapter.

16
17 Ms. Smith noted that the mayor's directive to incorporate the Landmarks Commission
18 functions into the museum created new dynamics requiring careful consideration. For the first
19 time, the museum would have a specific role identified in the general plan, which had previously
20 only addressed historic preservation in general terms without mentioning the museum's
21 contributions.

22
23 The board's recommended revision, presented as Chapter 7 (or potentially Chapter 8),
24 included several key components: the museum's purpose and vision, benefits of historic
25 preservation, historic resources in Centerville, and detailed implementation actions. The proposal
26 addressed requirements for Certified Local Government (CLG) funding eligibility, including
27 maintaining historic resource surveys and reconnaissance data dating back to 1890.

28
29 Ms. Smith emphasized that each implementation action would require proper coordination
30 with city departments, unlike previous museum functions that operated more independently. For
31 example, installing historic district signage would require city council approval due to budget
32 implications and public works coordination. The document clearly identified lead departments for
33 each proposed action to prevent unauthorized individual initiatives.

34
35 The board discussed including agricultural heritage and century farms in the plan, though
36 questions arose about how to fairly represent all four century farms in Centerville without showing
37 favoritism. Members considered whether to include various historical plaques and markers, such
38 as National Register plaques and Lincoln Highway designations.

39
40 Landmarks Commission and the Whitaker Museum

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42 The discussion revealed the complexity of combining museum operations with historic
43 preservation commission functions. Smith explained that the current Landmarks Commission
44 ordinance would need updating to reflect the museum's dual capacity role, as museums and

1 historic preservation commissions traditionally operate as separate entities with different
2 requirements and procedures.

3 Board members and city staff discussed whether the entities needed to remain separate with
4 dual capacity meetings (similar to City Council/RDA procedures) or could be combined into a
5 single organization. Administrative Services Director Bryce King questioned why the functions
6 couldn't be unified under one historical committee overseeing both museum and preservation
7 activities.

8
9 The CLG funding requirements emerged as a critical consideration, with the board noting
10 that Centerville had successfully received grants for five to six consecutive years, however,
11 funding had been denied in recent years due to policy changes favoring rural over urban
12 communities and transitions in federal oversight from the National Forest Service.

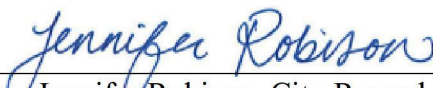
13
14 Members emphasized that any structural changes must preserve the city's CLG certification
15 status, as recertification would be extremely difficult. The board confirmed that while the
16 Landmarks Commission exists in city code, it has not functioned actively for several years, with
17 the museum increasingly handling historic preservation inquiries and research.

18
19 The discussion included review of supporting documents: an operational manual defining
20 museum functions, a resolution for city council adoption, and a comprehensive funding resource
21 guide. These materials aimed to clarify the museum's extensive behind-the-scenes work, which
22 city officials and the public often don't fully understand, including archival management, volunteer
23 coordination, and research assistance for community members.

24
25 Board members agreed to review all materials for accuracy, grammar, and completeness
26 before the next meeting, with particular attention to the Chapter 7 general plan recommendations.
27 The complex integration of museum and historic preservation functions will require careful
28 coordination with city legal counsel to ensure proper implementation while maintaining grant
29 eligibility and operational effectiveness.

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31 **ADJOURN**

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33 At 6:13 p.m., Robin Jensen made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Smith seconded
34 the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (6-0).

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39 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

05/26/2026

Date Approved

