

1 Minutes of the Centerville City Whitaker Museum Board meeting held Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at
2 5:00 p.m. in the Centerville City Hall Conference Room, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

3
4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5 Jim Morgan, Chair
6 Alyson Childs
7 Nancy Smith
8 Blair Parrish
9 Jana Taylor
10 Spencer Packer

11
12 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

13 Robin Jensen, Vice Chair

14
15 **STAFF PRESENT**

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

21
22 **VISITORS**

23 Erin Redd, Community Garden Chair
24 Craig Preston

25
26 **GARDEN REPORT**

27
28 Garden Chair Erin Redd presented the annual community garden report, noting that she
29 has served in the role for approximately 13–15 years. In 2025, the garden rented 32 large plots and
30 32 small plots, generating approximately \$1,580 in revenue. Plot fees were increased for 2026 to
31 \$45 for large plots and \$35 for small plots, and despite slightly lower participation, revenue
32 remains comparable at approximately \$1,505. The Board expressed no concerns about the fee
33 increase, noting that the plots continue to provide good value given that the city supplies water,
34 site preparation, and dumpster service. No budget request was submitted for the coming year, as
35 no additional equipment or tools are needed. The Board also agreed to discontinue the annual end-
36 of-season barbecue due to consistently low attendance.

37
38 Ms. Redd reported that five large and five small plots remained available. Members
39 discussed the delayed start to the irrigation season, which had caused some frustration among
40 gardeners, though Ms. Redd noted that participants had generally been respectful. The Board also
41 discussed compost availability following the sale of Oakdale, which had previously donated
42 compost. Staff indicated that compost could be obtained from the landfill at minimal cost, though
43 some members raised concerns about its quality and suggested gardeners be allowed to provide
44 their own soil amendments if desired.
45

1 A significant portion of the discussion focused on the increasing presence of goat head
2 weeds in the garden's open pathway areas. Board members noted that goat heads require physical
3 removal and cannot be effectively controlled through mowing or tilling alone. Staff indicated that
4 the Parks Department could assist with spraying but would not provide manual removal. The Board
5 discussed incorporating weed management guidance into gardener orientations and exploring
6 additional strategies to address the issue. Ms. Redd also requested that city grass clippings be made
7 available for use in the garden, and Director Sommer agreed to follow up with Parks staff. The
8 Board concluded by thanking Redd for her many years of dedicated service as Garden Chair.

9
10 **DISCUSS PROPOSED CENTERVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE AND**
11 **CENTERVILLE ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS TO APPOINT WHITAKER MUSEUM**
12 **BOARD MEMBERS TO ACT AS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
13 **MEMBERS**

14
15 City Attorney Lisa Romney presented a proposal to align the Whitaker Museum Board and
16 the City's Landmarks Commission by having the same individuals serve on both bodies while
17 maintaining them as separate legal entities. Similar to the relationship between the City Council
18 and Redevelopment Agency, members would serve in dual capacities, with each body retaining its
19 own meetings, records, and responsibilities. The proposal would also rename the Landmarks
20 Commission as the Historic Preservation Commission to better reflect its purpose and focus.

21
22 Ms. Romney explained that appointment to the Whitaker Museum Board would
23 automatically include appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission. Both bodies would
24 consist of 5–7 members serving three-year terms, appointed by the Mayor with City Council
25 consent. She reviewed qualification requirements for the Historic Preservation Commission,
26 noting that state and federal historic preservation programs require members with demonstrated
27 interest or expertise in historic preservation, and that the Board's current membership appears well-
28 positioned to satisfy those requirements.

29
30 Ms. Romney indicated that the two bodies would generally meet consecutively on the same
31 evening to minimize administrative burden, with a separate annual meeting for officer elections
32 and goal setting. The proposed ordinance amendments primarily update code references to reflect
33 the commission's new name and formalize the dual-service structure. Ms. Romney emphasized
34 that the item was presented for feedback only, before moving to the Planning Commission and
35 City Council for formal consideration. Board members expressed general support for the proposal
36 and were encouraged to submit comments after reviewing the ordinance language.

37
38 Board Member Nancy Smith **moved** to approve the Board's support of the Mayor's
39 recommendation to combine the Whitaker Museum Board with the Landmarks Commission under
40 the new name of Historic Preservation Commission, and to forward the General Plan
41 recommendation for the Historic Preservation/Museum chapter to City Planner Mike Eggett for
42 presentation to the City Council as part of the updated General Plan. Board Member Spencer
43 Packer seconded the motion which passed unanimously (6-0).

44
45 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

1
2 Minutes of the March 24, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Nancy Smith made a **motion** to
3 approve the minutes. Blair Parrish seconded the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (6-
4 0).

5
6 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

7
8 Recap – March/April/May Museum Activities

9
10 Director Lisa Sommer reported on several successful museum activities conducted
11 between March and May 2026. The inaugural Women's History of Centerville exhibit drew more
12 than 540 visitors from both Utah and several other states. The exhibit highlighted notable women
13 from Centerville's history, including early attorneys, nurses, midwives, suffrage advocates, and
14 contributors to Utah's silk industry. Due to strong public interest, the exhibit was extended into
15 April, and Board members expressed support for making it an annual event. The Museum also
16 hosted school field trips from Centerville Elementary and Taylor Elementary, with Board members
17 assisting during the visits.

18
19 Additional activities included assuming responsibility for the annual veterans' flag
20 placement program at the city cemetery, which involved more than 60 volunteer groups placing
21 flags on the graves of 530 veterans. The Museum also hosted a historic walking tour featuring
22 several historic family homes, which attendees praised for their architecture, craftsmanship, and
23 the quality of the homeowner-led presentations.

24
25 Review June and July Museum Events

26
27 Director Sommer reviewed upcoming museum events, highlighting the annual historic tea
28 party scheduled for June 6, 2026. Registration filled all 60 available seats within two weeks, and
29 City Council members volunteered to assist with the event. Staff coordinated setup and teardown
30 logistics with the Parks Department and requested additional volunteer assistance from Board
31 members.

32
33 Director Sommer also reported that the Museum's text message subscription service has
34 grown to approximately 122 subscribers and has proven to be an effective tool for promoting
35 events. She requested that upcoming museum activities through November be included in the June
36 city newsletter and discussed options for improved exterior signage to better inform the public
37 when the Museum is open for tours. The Museum also plans to participate in the city's July 4th
38 celebration and parade with a pop-up display.

39
40 Review and Discussion of General Plan – Whitaker Museum/Historic Preservation

41

1 Director Sommer reported that the proposed General Plan language related to historic
2 preservation and the Whitaker Museum had been distributed to Board members at the March 2026
3 meeting for review. Board members indicated they were satisfied with the content and direction of
4 the draft language and expressed support for its inclusion in the updated General Plan. The Board
5 agreed to forward its recommendation to City Planner Mike Eggett for consideration as the City
6 Council continues its review of the General Plan update.

7
8 **BOARD REPORTS**
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10 Board Member Spencer Packer reported that he continues to search for a historically
11 appropriate wood-burning stove for the museum's small historic home. Board Member Blair
12 Parrish noted that a potentially suitable potbelly stove may be available in a family barn and agreed
13 to investigate its condition and availability.

14
15 Director Sommer reported that Discover Davis and Visit Utah are developing heritage tourism
16 itineraries tied to the anticipated 2027 Salt Lake Temple open house and have invited Centerville
17 to identify historic sites and stories for inclusion. The Board discussed a variety of potential
18 themes, including early LDS pioneer history, handcart rescue participants, century farms, cemetery
19 history, sericulture, genealogy, trails, and indigenous heritage. Members agreed to continue
20 developing ideas for how best to present Centerville's history to a broader audience. Related
21 discussion included the possibility of adding historic markers with QR codes at key sites
22 throughout the city, though members expressed concern about the cost of professionally produced
23 signs and explored lower-cost alternatives.

24
25 Board Member Packer also mentioned a potential donation of a historic Ting vegetable washer,
26 suggesting it could be displayed as an outdoor interpretive exhibit. Director Sommer noted that no
27 immediate action is planned, but the idea may be explored in the future.

28
29 **ADJOURN**
30

31 At 6:14 p.m., Spencer Packer made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Alyson Childs
32 seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote (6-0).
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35

36 Jennifer Robinson
37 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

06/23/2026
Date Approved

