

Minutes

Museum Advisory Board

April 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order by Emma Pena-McCleave at p.m.

Board Present: Emma Pena-McCleave, Nancy Masimer, Donna Hendren, Annareli Morales, Anne Masterson, George Junne.

Board Absent: Scott Chartier, Marcus Embry.

Staff Present: Kristjana Eyjolfsson, Geoff Havens, Katie Ross, Megan Weiler, Chris Bowles, Brecklyn Everhart.

2. Approval of the March 2026 minutes.

Motion to approve the March 2026 minutes by Anne Masterson and seconded by Donna Hendren.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports:

- CPRD Report:

- Discussion of current departmental priorities, including ongoing budget reduction planning. CPRD cuts amount to a 17% reduction, with Museums at 27%.
- Board consolidation updates remain under discussion.
- City Council presentation schedule and public release timeline for budget information will be shared once finalized.
- State of the City event recap provided.

- Museums Report:

- Free general admission continues to increase attendance year-over-year.
- Increased public visibility noted through partnerships and programming.
- Recent Holocaust presentation hosted approximately 55 attendees.
- Concurrent children's programming brought significant youth participation.
- Preparations are underway for Centennial Village programming and seasonal operations.

- Exhibits Report:

- Upcoming exhibit: Home News, developed through archival research of 1976 Greeley Tribune coverage. This exhibit is curated by Chris Bowles.
- Public reception and presentation planning is forthcoming.

- Collections Report:
 - Due to anticipated staffing reductions, a moratorium on acquisitions has been enacted.
 - The reductions will eliminate all Registrar staff for the foreseeable future.
 - Exceptions will be considered only through Acquisition Committee approval. Existing commitments and select institutional agreements will continue such as deerfield items.

- Education and Interpretation:
 - Field trip season is underway with strong participation from local schools.
 - History Fest planning is active.
 - Volunteers are being recruited for field trips and special events.

- Historic Sites:
 - Accessibility improvement project completed with replacement of deteriorating paving stones.
 - Roof and preservation work scheduled for Montford House.
 - Additional maintenance and restoration projects are ongoing.
 - Preparations underway for Baby Animal Days.

- 4. Friends of the Greeley Museums Report:
 - Friends organization continues governance restructuring.
 - Privacy policy development is underway as foundation for additional organizational policies.
 - Exploration of CRM software for donor/member management continues.
 - Future formal Memorandum of Understanding with museum system anticipated.
 - Long-term objective remains potential reconstitution as charitable foundation.

- 5. Task Force Reports:
 - Experience Team:
 - Committee did not meet this month. Future meetings will focus on operational forecasting and service-level planning.

- Acquisitions Team:
 - Due to budget cuts and the moratorium, the committee will meet as needed.

Reviewed and approved select historical artifact donations, including:

- Selected garments from Sarah Frances Gilbert collection
- Historical firearms and related artifacts connected to Benjamin Franklin Golan
- Historic city flag
- 1944 Coca-Cola bottle
- Lester Music accordion collection
- Additional local historical signage and objects pending further research
- Six historical quilts previously reconsidered; two quilts were accepted into the collection
- Greeley Kennel Club historical materials and presentation project, which remains under continued review

6. Old Business:

- Motion regarding board consolidation

Motion that the Greeley Museum Advisory board formally opposes consolidation with the UCCC board and the Art Commission made by Donna Hendren and seconded by Annareli Morales.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business:

- Possible Museum Service Reductions late 2026/2027:
 - Staff presented preliminary information regarding significant proposed budget reductions affecting museum operations.
 - Discussion included:
 - Potential reduction of museum operating hours
 - Possible reduction in special events and educational programming

- Potential staff layoffs
- Suspension of research center services
- Reduced public access and programming capacity
- Long-term impacts to collections stewardship and institutional sustainability
- Board members expressed serious concern regarding:
 - Long-term rebuilding challenges
 - Loss of institutional knowledge through staffing reductions
 - Reduced public and community access
- Staff noted:
 - Budget proposals remain under review
 - Public presentations to City Council begin in May
 - Community input opportunities will follow public release of budget proposals


- Weld County Commissioners Outreach:
 - Board discussed pursuing county-level partnership opportunities. Updates included that initial commissioner outreach has begun. There is a potential phased partnership approach under consideration, and any future formal presentations may be scheduled with Weld County Commissioners.

- Artist Residency Program:
 - Staff announced launch of the museum’s summer Artist Residency pilot program at Centennial Village. The program would include an artist stipend with the intent on creating Historical interpretation-based art. Applications for artists is currently open.

- Fort Lupton Museum Collaboration
 - Annareli reported productive outreach meeting with Fort Lupton Historical Museum staff. Discussion with staff included promotional brochure exchange, potential future collaborative museum partnerships across Weld County and a possibility of shared exhibitions and historical programming.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting May 21,2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Greeley History Museum.

DocuSigned by:

4562D5A369B7466...

Museum Manager

Signed by:

C338F14E769F43C...

Chair, Museum Advisory Board

