



Arizona Mining, Mineral & Natural Resources Education Museum

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the AMMNRE Museum Advisory Council March 21, 2025

A public meeting of the AMMNRE Museum Advisory Council was convened on:

Date: **March 21, 2025**

Time: **9:00am**

Location: **Virtual, via Zoom**

Members Present: Jim Ballinger, Rep. Gail Griffin, Nicole LaSlavic, Phil Pearthree, Les Presmyk, Stefanie Smallhouse, Steve Trussell

Members Absent: None

U of A Staff Present: Marta Bones, Catie Sandoval

Guests: Museum planning team - Mary Kay Cunningham, Wendy Meluch, Lorie Millward

A quorum was established.

I. Welcome

- Chair Stefanie Smallhouse began the meeting.

II. Presentation of Visitor Experience Master Plan and Supporting Documents

- Director Marta Bones led an overview of the main elements of the plan and the purpose of each document.
 - Visitor Experience Overview: this document is a high-level “reader’s digest” version of the plan. It can be used to quickly disseminate information to people who are new to the project, i.e., city officials, U of A leadership, new partners to the project.
 - Visitor Experience Master Plan: this is a high-level/conceptual document that includes vision, mission, values, and themes. It is a guiding document that we will use and modify as we progress with the project. It is not intended to be a fundraising document.
 - Resource Document: this contains detailed summaries about the research conducted, information gathered and key findings. It is an important record and resource tool to reference as the museum development work progresses.
- Marta highlighted the main parts of the plan in a PowerPoint presentation, including the vision, mission, University of Arizona values, Big Idea, and four themes.

III. Discussion of the Plan

- Discussion of the plan covered specific words in the mission statement including a change in the word order; use of a different photo on one page, and a rephrase to the water theme name.
- Presmyk moved to accept the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee to approve the plan with minor wording changes; Rep. Griffin seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved with no opposition.
- There was discussion of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee's recommendation of the use of "Arizona Natural Resources Museum" as an interim name for the museum and the need to include the word "mining" in the name.
- Presmyk moved approval of the interim name of the "Arizona Mining and Natural Resources Museum;" Pearthree seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved with no opposition.

IV. Additional Discussion; Clarifications and Understanding

- Discussion about next steps in the following months included engaging an interpretive planning or exhibit development team to further develop the ideas from the plan. This process could take approximately nine months to a year.
 - There was clarification that here are two distinct design efforts, architectural design and exhibition design.
- There was discussion about funding and the RFP process for exhibition design, as well as scheduling and timeline for building construction.
 - Marta clarified that we do not yet have the funds to begin exhibition design.
 - A request was made for a building walkthrough with the design-build team so members can become more familiar with the proposed work.
 - **Action Item:** Marta will schedule a walkthrough meeting with Advisory Council members and design-build team.
- Marta explained that the U of A takes a 50-year approach to building projects, so the renovation will need to accommodate various exhibit and visitor needs over the coming decades.

V. Open Advisory Council Positions

- There are 13 Advisory Council positions; eight are filled including the recent reappointment of Rep. Griffin and the appointment of Sen. Gowan.

- The five open positions are: an additional member from the mining industry, one from the timber industry, one from the livestock industry, and two members of the public.
 - **Action Item:** Marta will send Rep. Griffin the list of open positions and the link to the application, and Rep. Griffin will assist with appointments.
- Discussion followed including whether members whose appointments have expired need to re-apply by submitting new applications, applications that have not yet been appointed, and potential people who may want to apply. Marta confirmed that members may continue until a new person is appointed in their place and that the State Geologist does not need to re-apply to retain his position on the committee.
 - **Action Item:** Trussell and Marta will collect applications from current members who need to reapply, along with new applications and submit them to Ben Henderson all together.

VI. Museum Updates from the Director

- Marta stated that the design-build team is working on the revised scope of work, as well as the timeline for completing construction documents and the first phase of building construction.
- Marta discussed changes in U of A Research, Innovation, and Impact leadership.

VII. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas

- The Finance and Donor Development Subcommittee will schedule a meeting to begin discussions about fundraising efforts.
 - Marta confirmed that we currently have enough material for exploratory conversations with potential donors.
 - There was discussion about the value of printed and digital materials to provide to groups and the need to build awareness with specific groups and the general public about the museum's plans and progress.
 - There was discussion of including colleagues from the U of A Foundation in the next meeting to provide context about the Foundation's approach to capital campaign strategy and how we can best support their work and leverage their skills.
- Marta will continue to work with the U of A Foundation to identify funding strategies.
- The museum Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 9am.