



Arizona Mining, Mineral & Natural Resources Education Museum

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the AMMNRE Museum Advisory Council January 17, 2025

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

Date: **January 17, 2025**

Time: **10:00am**

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

A quorum was established.

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Stefanie Smallhouse began the meeting and introduced the newest member, Jim Ballinger. Ballinger shared highlights of his 40-year museum background.

II. Update Regarding New Leadership of the U of A Office of Research, Innovation, and Impact (RII)

- Director Marta Bones shared recent leadership personnel changes including:
 - i. The U of A's new President, Dr. Suresh Garimella as of Oct. 1, 2024
 - ii. RII's new Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Tomás Díaz de la Rubia, as of Nov. 11, 2024
 - iii. Interim Senior Vice President for RII, Dr. Elliott Cheu, returned to his previous role of Associate Vice President for RII in November.
 1. Also in November, Interim Associate Vice President for RII, Dr. Pete Reiners, returned to his role as a professor of geosciences.
 - iv. Also, earlier this month, Cheu was asked to assume the role of Interim Chief Information Officer for U of A; a national search for a permanent CIO will be launched.
 1. The role of AVP for RII is currently open, and RII is working on an interim plan.

III. Review of AZ Rev Stat § 27-111 (2020), Establishing the Mining, Mineral and Natural Resources Educational Museum Advisory Council

- Chair Smallhouse led the group through a round of brief introductions for the benefit of the newest member.
- Chair Smallhouse led discussion about duties of the Council outlined in the statute, including the need to select a Vice Chair and the benefit of establishing subcommittees to facilitate the work of the Advisory Council.
- Phil Pearthree nominated Les Presmyk for Vice Chair and Stefanie Smallhouse to continue as Chair.
 - i. The nominations were approved with no opposition.
- Presmyk moved to establish a strategic planning subcommittee; Steve Trussell seconded the motion.
 - The purpose of the strategic planning subcommittee is to help respond to the museum planning consultants' work currently underway and to help respond to the upcoming work related to the design of the museum.
 - The motion was approved with no opposition.
- Presmyk moved to establish a finance and donor development subcommittee; Trussell seconded the motion.
 - Discussion of the name and purpose of this subcommittee followed.
 - The purpose of this subcommittee is to help shape strategy for donor development and project funding/financing.
 - The motion was approved with no opposition.
- Chair Smallhouse led discussion about the membership of the two new subcommittees, including the desired number of members and who was interested in joining either. There was consensus that subcommittees of five members each would work well, and that the Council will revisit membership of the finance and donor development subcommittee in the future, once there are more members on the Advisory Council.
 - Presmyk moved to approve Ballinger, Pearthree, Presmyk, Smallhouse, and Trussell as members of the strategic planning subcommittee, and LaSlavic, Presmyk, and Smallhouse as members of the finance and donor development subcommittee. Trussell seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved with no opposition.

- Chair Smallhouse opened discussion about the five open positions on the Advisory Council, including that:
 - The appointment of a Senator is pending and should be completed next week.
 - We are aware that two applications have been submitted.
 - The desired background of those to fill public positions includes a strong interest in AZ history and the future of its “legacy” natural resource industries.
 - Trussell has reached out to the Governor’s office to learn who is responsible for appointments to this group.
 - **Action item:** Trussell will follow-up and share what he learns.

IV. Review of AZ Open Meeting Law

- Director Bones began discussion of the key points of open meeting law and best practices as outlined by the U of A Office of General Counsel. Discussion included:
 - Seven constitutes a quorum for this group, which is a majority of the thirteen positions specifically outlined in the statute, regardless of how many positions are filled at any given time.
 - Without a quorum, the group should not convene nor discuss or deliberate Council business.
 - This includes communications via email, phone, and other means.
 - Therefore, it’s best not to “reply all” on emails and instead to bcc the members of the Council.
 - Public notice of meetings and meeting agenda must be posted 24 hours in advance. These are being posted physically at the museum building and also electronically on the museum’s website (here: [Public Notices | Arizona Mining, Mineral and Natural Resources Education Museum](#))

V. AMMNRE Museum Renovation Simplified Budget Estimate

- Director Bones reviewed the budget estimate at a high level, noting that it outlines costs for the rehabilitation of the building itself, and that the numbers are the same as the last time the Advisory Council reviewed an estimate.
- Brief discussion followed including a question about whether the estimate includes a contingency, which it does, and about naming opportunities as an effective mechanism for raising major gifts for the project.

VI. AMMNRE Museum Updates from the Director and Redevelopment Gantt Chart

- There were no questions related to the written update and Gantt chart provided.

VII. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas.

- Chair Smallhouse led discussion about February meeting dates, including a proposed additional meeting on Feb. 7, when the museum planning team could present their work product.
- After a brief discussion about members' availability, the consensus was for the strategic planning subcommittee to meet on Feb. 7 and the full Advisory Council to meet on Feb. 21; both meetings will be held via Zoom from 9 – 10:30am.
- During the Feb. 7 meeting the museum planning team will share the plan, and Chair Smallhouse noted that anyone is welcome to attend the Feb. 7 subcommittee meeting.