

1 Minutes of the Whitaker Museum Board meeting held Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in  
2 the Business Office Conference Room at City Hall, 250 North Main Street, Centerville, Utah.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5 Diane Chamberlain  
6 Mel Miles  
7 Spencer Packer, Chair  
8 Nancy Smith  
9 Paul Thomas Smith

10  
11 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

12 Carol Bake

13  
14 **STAFF PRESENT**

15 Stephanie Ivie, City Council Liaison, arrived at 5:20 p.m.  
16 Lisa Linn Sommer, Museum Director  
17 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary

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19 **MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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21 Minutes of the July 31, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Mel Miles made a **motion** to approve  
22 the minutes as amended. Diane Chamberlain seconded the motion, which was passed by  
23 unanimous vote (5-0).

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25 **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

26  
27 Lisa Linn Sommer, Museum Director, reported the furniture for the BH Roberts exhibit  
28 has been placed in the Museum for the exhibit, and the furniture will be returned to the storage  
29 container when the exhibit is over. The bed at the exhibit is fake, and there will be a sign informing  
30 people to not sit on the bed. The biography of B H Roberts that was authored by Richard Roberts  
31 will be sold for \$25.00. Lisa will take posters advertising the exhibit to churches in Centerville to  
32 be displayed. After the exhibit is over, the Museum will be cleaned at a cost of \$500. The bid for  
33 the Museum storage container is \$3,400, and Chair Packer advised that there not be ventilation in  
34 the storage container. Lisa will verify if the storage unit without ventilation will damage the  
35 furniture.

36  
37 Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke with Steve Thacker, City Manager, about  
38 having the Parks Department install a sprinkler system and remove the succor trees by the south  
39 fence next to the car wash. Mr. Thacker approved this request, and there should be enough money  
40 in the RAP Tax to cover the expense for this project. The trees were removed because they were  
41 raising the asphalt and fence, and the blue posts were also removed.

1 The meeting with the Parks Department to discuss the landscaping plans for the Museum  
2 grounds will be held on November 27, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. At the October meeting, the Board will  
3 discuss the landscaping plans for the gardens. Paul Thomas Smith reported he has been researching  
4 the native plants that might have been planted on the Museum grounds, and he distributed a list of  
5 the plants.

6  
7 At 5:20 p.m., Stephanie Ivie, City Council Liaison, arrived at the meeting.  
8

9 Mr. Smith reported that in 2010, Richard Whitaker Chase submitted a landscaping plan for  
10 the Museum, and he emailed Mr. Smith a copy of the plans. Lisa Linn Sommer requested that a  
11 long term landscaping plan be made for the Parks Department. The Parks Department has time to  
12 plant mulberry trees along the south fence. The Board discussed planting male Mulberry trees next  
13 to the south fence by the car wash. Nancy Smith requested that more discussion take place on the  
14 planting of trees at this location.

15  
16 Chair Packer made a **motion** to continue with planting the mulberry trees on the south side  
17 of the Museum grounds next to the car wash fence. Mel Miles seconded the motion, which was  
18 passed by a vote of (4-1). Nancy Smith was the dissenting vote.  
19

20 Lisa Linn Sommer said she found a contact for the kitchen stove to be refurbished. The  
21 stove will be an electric oven with a gas top. The man will be coming in September to pick-up the  
22 stove. It will cost \$3,500 to restore the stove, and \$1,200 labor for a total cost of \$5,600. It will be  
23 finished in the summer of 2019. The Whitaker Museum Board agreed to have the stove retrofitted  
24 to a gas stove.  
25

26 Lisa Linn Sommer reported there is currently no WIFI at the Museum, which means there  
27 is no phone service. This has been a continual problem for several years. Nancy Smith said when  
28 she was considering UTOPIA for her home, she was told there is not enough capacity for the  
29 Museum. Stephanie Ivie, City Council Liaison, said she will talk to Lisa Bednar about this  
30 problem. Lisa said two surveillance cameras are needed at the Museum. Lisa received an email  
31 from the State informing her that CLG grants will not be awarded unless there is a before and after  
32 photo of the project. The Garden Barbeque was held last week, and there were 30 people in  
33 attendance.  
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### 35 **BOARD REPORTS**

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37 Paul Thomas Smith reported the Thomas Whitaker DVD is in post-production. Mr. Smith  
38 will be doing the Storytelling events at the Museum for September and October.  
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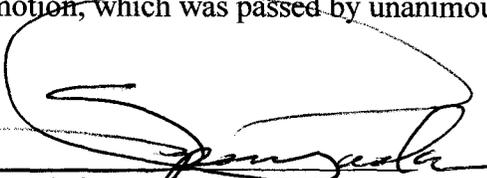
40 Chair Packer reported he met with a blacksmith in Salt Lake City regarding the hinges and  
41 handles for the carriage doors. They will be farmhouse style and butt plates will also be added.  
42 Chair Packer is waiting for a quote on the plates. He will also ask for a quote on eye hooks that  
43 would be placed in the brick or stone above the doors to hang banners.

1           **NEXT MEETING**

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3           The next Whitaker Museum Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018  
4 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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6           **ADJOURN**

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8           At 5:50 p.m., Mel Miles made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Smith seconded  
9 the motion, which was passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

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14 Chair Spencer Packer

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18  
19 10-26-2018  
Date Approved

16  
17   
18 Connie Larson, Recording Secretary



## B. H. Roberts and the Whitaker Connection

It is common knowledge that after B. H. Roberts arrived in Davis County from England, at age 14 he was sent to the Dry Canyon mining camp of Ophir. He worked for a time with miners exploring for silver in the west mountains. His association with those men led to several bad habits, including chewing tobacco, drinking coffee and whiskey. "Big Ben" Maynard, a desperado from Texas, befriended Henry, and took him to watch as he gunned down men. Henry packed in drinking water by burros, served as an errand boy, handyman, and prospector.

Edwin D. Woolley, Henry's bishop, disfellowshipped him. Elder George A. Smith met him on the street. "Henry, I understand you've been cut off from the Church." "So?" "Well, what are you going to do about it?" "Nothing. If Bishop Woolley wants me out of the Church, then I'm out of the Church." "Well then," said Elder Smith, "you're on your way to hell." That got to him. Henry appealed the decision. Bishop Woolley said, "I move that Henry Roberts be restored to full faith and fellowship."

He decided to forego his association with the miners. But "my mining encampment life followed me." He lamented that "the good boys didn't want me; I did not want the bad ones, so I stayed to myself." He reluctantly became an apprentice to a blacksmith named James Henry Baird, and boarded with the Baird family for nearly three years. But he gained a lasting friendship with John M. Whitaker, who lived nearby.

John Whitaker was a self-taught stenographer. He was hired to work in the Church Historian's Office, as well as for the Seventy. "From the late 1880s on, John M. Whitaker was a close secretarial and administrative aide to Roberts himself, as a scribe, proofreader, copyist, and manager of affairs. 'I am fortunate,' Whitaker wrote fifteen years later, 'to have his complete confidence.' John was one of the few individuals "who ever enjoyed intimate conversations and camaraderie with Roberts."

"John's mother was the second positive influence from that household. She became the adoptive godmother to Robert's own children. "How I loved her for all she had done for my family,' he said in 1889." pp. 74-75.

"On Sunday, October 7, 1888, at the age of thirty-one, B. H. Roberts was sustained as a new member of the First Council of the Seventy in general conference. Two days later, Elder Lorenzo Snow of the Council of the Twelve, ordained Roberts one of the seven presidents. The ordination took place at the Church Historian's Office." -p. 180

"John Whitaker subscribed to many British journals and newspapers. He took notes (half in Pitman shorthand) and supplied Roberts with all the speeches of Edmund Burke as well as the details of the great debates and political trends worldwide." p. 78

"His earliest office as a Church authority was in the Constitution Building across from the ZCMI department store on Main Street. This was known as the "new office." Later he moved into the new six-story granite Church Administration Building at 47 East South Temple." 203

-Truman G. Madsen, *Defender of the Faith: The B. H. Roberts Story*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, Inc., 1980.