Allison: Okay. Call to order the Wednesday, March 6, 2019 meeting of the Board of Museums and History Membership Committee. Was the meeting properly posted?

Brown: It was.

Allison: And you want to do roll call?

Brown: Okay. Bryan Allison?

Allison: Here.


Stoldal: Here.

Petersen: This is Jan. I’m finally here.
Brown: Okay, great. We have a quorum.

Allison: Just in time, we're just starting. Thank you. Okay. I don't have any announcements or meeting logistics for item three. Public comment. Public comment is welcome by the committee. A period of public comment will be allowed after a discussion of each action item on the agenda but before voting on the item. Because of time consideration, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair. Speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers. No action may be taken on any matter brought up under public comment until that matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

Do we have any members of the public today or--

Hulme: Hello, Bryan. It's Sarah Hulme from the Friends of Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas.

Allison: Oh, great. Good morning, Sarah.

Hulme: Morning.

Allison: Okay. Let's jump right in to number five, which is review suggested revisions to board membership policy. I sent some notes to Peter and I know he sent them out. Did everybody get those?

Petersen: Yes.

Allison: Okay. I thought it would help us to go down kind of what questions I had and then we can determine kind of what we want to vote on to take to the full Board for their input and possible action. So let's start with student membership. When I did my little audit, I found that an age is not defined currently in the membership policy itself, one that the Board has approved. The state museum in Carson City is the only one that specifies 18 and younger. It doesn't really explain what student means and as someone who just graduated from UNR finally last November, December, students can be a wide range of people. So if that policy would, you know, if we do it by age, would exclude most college students.

So I guess, first off, what do we think about defining age or should it be a student ID? I'd just like to hear some thoughts on that.

Magee: Hi, this is Catherine and the Nevada Historical Society. I think a student should be anybody who holds a valid student ID and I also think that our student membership should be free. Because we--
Female: They're poor.

Magee: Yeah, because they're poor and I think that it encourages, at least in our institution, it definitely encourages people to come in and come to the collections where they normally don’t.

Stoldal: Bryan, just for a--

Petersen: This is Jan in Elko. I totally agree.

Stoldal: Bryan--

Allison: Bob?

Stoldal: --Stoldal for the record. Just one of the things I think would be helpful is just a piece of information when we submit our final report would be the details from each of the facilities as to what their membership levels are in each of these categories. For example, Catherine, how many--do you know off the top of your head how many student memberships you've got at your facility? Probably--

Magee: Not off the top of my head. I know that we used to sell them and now we don't because most of our students come in through tours or UNR classes. So we just count the state as a student visitor but we don't--I don't think we actually have any active student memberships right now.

Allison: Okay.

Stoldal: Well, I would concur with the others that have spoken out, that a student membership, A, a valid student ID card and, B, that it would be free. I can support that.

Allison: One question I have. Do we care what institution it is? I mean, not to get crazy about it but does it have to be a Nevada institution, is it any student ID?

Petersen: This is Jan in Elko. Let me throw in one more thing. If you've got seventh grade, junior high age kids, are they gonna even think they need an ID or do they have one?

Allison: I know my daughter--this is very anecdotal. This is Bryan for the record. My daughter is in fourth--when she was in third grade, she got her first student ID. So they get them pretty young.

Stoldal: Also, they're under 18.
Allison: Oh, yeah, that's true.
Stoldal: So, I mean, that's still the state law that it says (inaudible).
Allison: Oh, is it?
Stoldal: Yeah, children under 18. Where's the statute?
Petersen: I'll just believe you.
Freedman: Yeah, this is Myron. It's free admission if you're under 18.
Allison: Okay.
Freedman: So we're talking about basically college students.
Allison: Right.
Freedman: Yeah, so I think any valid ID from a--I think it should be in the state. Doesn't that make sense that they should be only Nevada institutions of higher learning?
Stoldal: And-or reciprocal. Maybe we're getting too deep into the weeds here.
Allison: Yeah.
Stoldal: Why would we not--if a student from California--
Allison: Wants to be--well, and again, this is Bryan for the record. We're talking membership, we're not just talking admission. Are we? We're talking membership.
Petersen: Yes, we are. We were getting off track there for a minute.
Allison: Yeah, so if it's membership--so under 18 is covered already. This would be if somebody actually wants to become a member and they're a student. I agree with you, bob, who cares where they're from. If they want to go to that--not trouble but to that effort, you know, I think that's something that's worthwhile, personally.
Stoldal: I guess our mission somewhat is multi-fold, if that's proper. But one is we want to increase visitation. I mean, we want more people to be able to come to the facilities and take advantage of the opportunity. The second thing is as a revenue stream, although that's--Peter, do you have any--just a broad sense of what we generate statewide on membership or on admission?
Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. Carrie may have an idea on that, that's a little more accurate than mine.

Edlefsen: What was the question again?

Stoldal: Well, first of all, do the membership fees--do they go to the institution or do they go to general fund?

Edlefsen: Our membership fees go to institution. They're part of the trust fund revenues.

Stoldal: Okay. And so the question is, off the top--well, I'm trying to think of the--I'm getting myself confused with admission and membership again.

Edlefsen: Yeah, admission fees go to the general fund. So any--the benefit that the memberships have where they can go into any of the museums without, you know, paying an admission fee, you know, doesn't affect the trust fund revenues but it does affect the state fund revenues and admission fees because now the state revenues aren't being paid and received.

Stoldal: I have just a quick question. How important to your operation is the revenue from membership?

Magee: I don't think I can answer that 'cause I'm not really sure how much we get in from membership.

Edlefsen: This is Carrie Edlefsen for the record. Membership revenues are very important to the trust funds, next to merchandise sales. Those are the second leading revenue producer for all the museums that receive membership fees.

Stoldal: Thank you.

Allison: Okay. Peter, process-wise, I asked for--do I ask for a motion and then we vote on that and then that would go--that recommendation would go to the board, is that correct?

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. That sounds like the way it should go, yes.

Allison: Okay. And I did have a note. I'm assuming we want to continue to exclude a subscription to the quarterly?

Barton: Peter Barton for the record. I would think you would have to or there'll be zero revenue realized at the institution level.

Petersen: This is Jan in Elko. And honestly, because I have grandchildren that age, if they had--and even when my kids were that age, they wouldn't open that quarterly. You'd have one out of a hundred even look at it.
Allison: Yeah, okay. So I'll make a motion.

Stoldal: Okay.

Allison: The motion would be to amend the membership policy to clarify that any student with a valid identification will receive free membership as a student member. That's not very well said but--

Barton: Receives--I'm sorry. For the record, Peter Barton. Receives free membership or $20 membership?

Allison: I think we're talking about making it free.

Freedman: Myron Freedman for the record. I have a question, I guess, for Carrie because I'm looking at our last report to the Board. And so student is not broken out as a category, so we really don't know--we really don't know what the income is from just student memberships. Do you see that? I mean, Carrie, can--do you--do you know that as a fact that we're not tracking--

Edlefsen: That would probably be tracked--we're not tracking it. We don’t maintain any of your membership details.

Freedman: I see.

Edlefsen: Just what you provide.

Freedman: So I'm showing on our membership figures--we don’t even have a category where we're tracking student members. I'm not sure why that is but I don't know if that's an indication that we're not getting any or is it being folded into another category, so I'll have to check into that.

Edlefsen: Yeah, Carrie Edlefsen for the record. It's possible that it's just Carried over that way through the years and nobody's thought to mention that we should change that and add that for tracking.

Freedman: Okay.

Stoldal: Catherine, do you track it?

Magee: Hi, this is Catherine Magee for the record. Yes, we do track it and that's why I can tell you we don't really have any student memberships. Generally speaking, if the student tended to want a membership, it would be because of the quarterly, so they would join as an individual. So that's why, at this point, we don't really have any student memberships and we just track in our POS system the number of students that come in that are not part of a tour.
Barton: If I may interrupt. For the record, Peter Barton. Bryan, we need a second on that motion before we have discussion.

Stoldal: (Inaudible) I'm gonna second that motion and I think that when we have the full Board meeting, if it turns out that we're receiving a massive amount of money from the student memberships, we can certainly adjust that at the full Board meeting. But I think that I would like to support the idea of free membership for students.

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. If I may, rather than call this a membership, I might argue that it's best handled as, you know, an adjustment to the admission policy such that anyone with a valid student ID is admitted free to museums. If you create a membership category for student, then we incur a cost. There's an overhead cost to track it, to essentially go through a renewal process. These students have a tendency to be pretty transient in where they live. I think we create a potential nightmare for ourselves that we could avoid by simply amending the admission policy to extend--

Petersen: This is Jan in Elko. I was about to say the exact same thing. Is it just gonna be busy work for the clerical people?

Allison: This is Bryan. I completely agree. Okay. So I rescind my prior motion.

Stoldal: Well, we can just have a vote on it and turn it down and then have a (inaudible).

Allison: Okay. Sorry I'm not up on my Roberts Rules of Order. Okay. A vote on my original motion. All those in favor, say Aye. All those opposed, Nay.

Board: Nay.

Allison: Okay. That failed and now we have a new motion.

Stoldal: I think the new motion would have to have two elements. One is we eliminate the category of membership under student.

Petersen: That would be my--this is Jan. That would be my direction.


Stoldal: I'd like to make a motion.

Hulme: Bryan?

Allison: Yes.
Hulme: Sorry to interrupt. It's Sarah Hulme from Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. Just one point. And I know this is specific to obviously the museum here, is that if you--we have more of a problem with admission changes because everyone has to come through the Springs Preserve and they don't check that ID and they actually charge for students both in Nevada and out of state. If it was a membership, then, in-fact, they could come to the museum for free but at this point, we would have to approach the Springs Preserve if we're going to change the admission process and speak to them about it. Because we wouldn't--they would still be charged.

Stoldal: Well, we would simply--Stoldal for the record. I think we'd simply tell the Springs Preserve that we allow students to come to the museum if they have a valid student ID. And that the Springs Preserve will have to adjust whatever they do. It doesn't mean that they could go to the full--well--

Allison: It's Bryan. Peter, what--what are your thoughts on that? I agree with Bob off the top of my head.

Edlefsen: Peter stepped away for just a moment, so hold onto that thought.

Allison: Okay.

Stoldal: I really feel that this is one of those things that we don't need to be hamstrung by the challenges that face the Springs Preserve.

Barton: What's the question?

Edlefsen: It's the issue with the Springs Preserve (inaudible).

Stoldal: We've cooperated on all kinds of levels. We're simply saying that if you have a valid student ID, that you can come to the museum free of charge, period.

Barton: Yeah, this is Peter Barton. Sorry I stepped out of the room for a moment. But no, the current protocol with the Springs Preserve is that they're, you know, if someone identifies themselves as coming to just the state museum and they're a member, they're not charged. Well, there's a reciprocal membership program. We can make that change or we can at least advise the Springs Preserve of this policy change that if someone identifies as coming just to the state museum and they show a valid student ID, there's no charge for that.

Stoldal: And in-fact, we're doing it state wide, so this is something that--so I'd like to make a motion that--go ahead.

Freedman: This is Myron Freedman for the record. I just wanted to jump in 'cause there are some benefits to being a member. And so this could discourage students from
becoming members, college students. Some of the benefits include receiving special invitations to events, receiving newsletters, things like that.

Allison: This is Bryan for the record. That's a good point. I just feel, as Catherine mentioned, if a student really wants to get the quarterly, they become a member and they pay. And I feel like the benefits of not creating more headache and paperwork and hassle for our staff outweigh--I just like the admission idea better. I know what you're saying but I feel like they can pony up some money if they want to get some of those additional benefits. That's just my thought.

Stoldal: (Inaudible) for the record. I think that if Myron--when he looks and figures out how many student memberships we have and we can do a statewide total, I don't think it's going to be--it's going to be significant as far as either a loss in revenue or based on the number of student memberships we have. But if it is, we can--the whole Board can adjust that and say, you know, we've now got more facts and figures and we think we need to leave the policy the way it is. I'd like to make a motion that we eliminate the student category of membership and secondly, that with a proper student ID, that they'd be allowed free admission to our facilities.

Allison: Okay. I'll second. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.

Board: Aye.


Stoldal: But I think that is part of the--there's a subtext there. We do need to get the facts and figures on the categories.

Allison: I agree. I think when we present to the full board, that will be useful information. Good point. Okay. Moving onto item 5B, which is define senior membership. Again, this is defined but no age is defined in the membership policy. We have a couple of different ages that are reflected in the materials that the different museums provide. We have 65 and older and then at the railroad museums, we have 62 and older. The cost at Boulder City is $30 but that is membership in the Friends organization. So it's different than the policy but it is a different membership program. So the question I had was should we settle on one age, I think we should, and define that in the membership policy and then any thoughts on the cost?

Stoldal: Do we have any bottles or is there some official definition, federally, of what that category is of senior citizen or, I mean, other than 65-plus?

Allison: I don't know of any.

Stoldal: Is there a reason, Peter, you know why 62 at the railroads?
Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. I don't specifically know the answer to that question, Bob, but I think in the world today the tendency is to consider seniors younger than older. I think, you know, 62 is a valid social security benefit age. I would tend to lean towards 62 versus 65. I mean, you can go into a restaurant at age 50 and get a senior discount. So I think you standardize it. I would, you know, people can argue and we could go the other way but I would suggest 62 just for consistency.

Petersen: This is Jan in Elko. Sixty-two is kind of splitting the difference between the AARP 55 and the 65, wherever that number came from.

Allison: Yep.

Stoldal: Well (inaudible) quick on the internet. The categories there are 55, 65, 60, 62 and 65. So again, putting it through the filter, our goal here, revenue generation and/or attendance to our facility.

Allison: Yep.

Stoldal: Sixty-two, that's okay with me.

Allison: Okay.

Stoldal: You want to do it even lower to 55 or 60, I mean, we put it down to 55, what's--what are we gonna lose there?

Magee: This is Catherine for the record. So our senior membership is $20 and that does not include the quarterly. And it's an individual, per-person. So, like, if a couple come in and they want to have a senior membership, they each have to purchase a $20 membership.

Allison: Right.

Magee: And no quarterly.

Freedman: This is Myron Freedman for the record. I don't recall hearing any complaints about the senior discount being too, you know, in terms of the age, being too high. So--

Stoldal: Okay.

Freedman: --I think 62 sounds good to me. I'm not sure I would go any lower because, you know, we are trying to attract, I mean, we are appealing to people who are, you know, still breadwinners in the family, as it were, you know, have the ability to give those dollars to a membership.
Allison: Okay.

Stoldal: I'd like to make a motion we change it to--we set the age of all of our facilities to 62 and older as defining senior.

Allison: Okay. I will second--

Petersen: Second.

Allison: Oh, go ahead. Thank you, Jan. Jan, second. So we have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye.

Board: Aye.

Allison: All those opposed? Motion passes. Okay.

Stoldal: (Inaudible) what you've got on your second to last bullet point under 5B, does not match policy. What are you referring to there?

Allison: All I was noting was that the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City, a senior cost is $30. And in our policy, our membership policy, we define--we didn't define the age, that's what we're working, we just passed the motion regarding. But we did define the cost. We said it was a $20 cost for senior. It's 30 in Boulder City. That's what I mean by does not match policy.

Stoldal: Okay. Although we don't have any control over those Friends.

Allison: I was just noting it for the record to show that we're--this will put us, I think, in compliance everywhere we need to be.

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. And if I may, I'll reach out to both Randy and Scott Dam from the Friends. It has been long been my philosophy that their membership fees need to mirror ours or we begin to set up another set of precedents that could have unintended consequences. So I will inquire why they went to $30. I think he may have explained that at a Board meeting but it didn't stick in my mind. So I'll go back, talk to him, see if we can't get them to adjust that so that it's reflective of the same $20. Or I could see next month, the Friends of the railroad museum in Carson will go to $30, then, you know, we'll start to--it needs to be consistent, in my opinion.

Stoldal: Consistency, okay.

Allison: Bryan, I think it would be good to attach what the (inaudible) at a state facility, do they give you a discount at the museum stores? Does it give you free admission to all the rest of the facilities? Those are particular situations but I
think we--there is some impact in different ways and we should probably at least let the Board know when you join, uh, uh, a Friends group. here's the benefit you get out of it, whether it's admission or a reduction at the museum stores, etcetera.

Allison: Yes. I know that, I mean, they have--you're right, we should.

Barton: Yeah, as far as I know--this is Peter Barton for the record. I mean, the intent was that the benefits would be the same. I mean, if you join the friends of the railroad museum, you can go out to the Lost City Museum, show that membership card and you get admitted free. So, you know, benefit wise, it's the same. I think we just want to bring the cost in line to be consistent.

Allison: Yeah, I'm looking right now at the policy and it does say categories and cost of membership are consistent.

Barton: Yep.

Allison: That's for Boulder City and for Carson City and it says that benefits--I think it said benefits. It definitely says cost--categories and cost of membership are consistent, so they probably need to modify that. Okay. Moving onto item 5C, the question of creating a new veteran membership. Some questions I had around that would be, should we include the quarterly. I've looked at a lot of different websites and museums and attractions and I couldn't find any kind of standard veteran discount. But it seemed to range from between 10 to 15 percent off. Often, it was a very specific dollar figure, like at Disney or at certain attractions. So it wasn't necessarily a percentage off. Oh, I wasn't sure if maybe coming up with a cost similar to what we have with the seniors where its $20 might be easier to administer instead of trying to mess with percentages. And then I'm not familiar enough with veterans to know what kind of credential they would carry that would be used for validation. So those are some questions I had. What does everybody think?

Petersen: Bryan, this is Jan in Elko. I am wondering why or if veterans and active military could be combined into one chunk.

Allison: Sure.

Barton: Yeah, I agree.

Allison: I think they could.

Freedman: This is Myron Freedman for the record. I mean, something to keep in mind, you know, we do the Blue Star Museum during the summer and that's for active military. So it is a way--and that's, you know, that's sponsored nationally. But that's a way to recognize active military and I think that's significant. I think we
should be careful about lumping them together, at least in terms of admission policy. But, you know, we can look more into the Blue Star program.

Stoldal: Again, are we talking admission or membership?

Freedman: Yeah, where--

Allison: I was talking membership, not admission.

Petersen: This is Jan. I keep lumping the two together but we're only doing members?

Allison: Well, I don't think we're restricted in what we want to discuss. But in our first meeting, we had some feedback from different folks that they often hear about a veteran discount or an active military discount. I interpreted that as meaning membership similar to the senior membership, not museum admission. And you're right, Myron 'cause the Blue Star program is strictly about admission.

Stoldal: Stoldal for the record. Now you're gonna get into a whole other broad category, which in some ways, in my way of thinking, a little bit controversial. First responders, firemen, policemen, ambulance (inaudible).

Petersen: Do-gooders.

Stoldal: I mean, you know, and without getting into a long debate, having seen some of the dollar figures that some of the firemen--they can clearly afford to be at benefactor level.

Freedman: This is Myron Freedman for the record. Yeah, and I guess I want to pick up on that, Bob, because our membership fees are very low. You know, so, I mean, even admission to the museums is extremely reasonable. So at some point, you know, it's nice to offer these things but we're already offering something, which is a very low monetary barrier to enjoy the museums.

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. I would not be wildly enthusiastic about creating new membership categories for veterans and active military. I think that is best handled as a discount do admission if we feel, you know, strongly that we should go that route. But I would agree with Myron. Right now, we participate in the Blue Star program, a little later in this agenda we'll talk about another program that's surfaced from IMLS that is starting to gain some momentum, that is another type of an admission discount. I would agree with everything Myron said that our admission fees are reasonable, our membership costs are very reasonable and, you know, I don't know that we just want to start creating new categories where each of those requires reporting and someone to do that work. I think we're being compassionate where we need to be and balancing that pretty well with the fact that we are public institutions.
Petersen: This is Jan in Elko and I'm totally in agreement, otherwise you start breaking these down, you're gonna wind up like the license plates with 15 different categories.

Allison: There are more than 15.

Barton: But be aware that the Sesquicentennial license plate is now--there's a bill, Senate Bill 181 to restore the sales of that plate, so we're really enthusiastic about that plate. That's a Senator Settelmeyer bill and yeah, we're hoping that comes up for a hearing.

Stoldal: The one I want to follow is the Golden Knights down here are trying to get the law changed so it goes into their--they control--anyway, never mind.

Allison: And don't get started on the Raiders.

Petersen: So we're taking some membership with the Historical Society (inaudible).

Stoldal: I think the idea is we open up the veteran’s thing to active and then you could make a legitimate case for the first responders. Then it just really goes down. I think we just move on, would be my suggestion.

Allison: This is--oh, okay. Oh, go ahead.

Hulme: (Inaudible) Sarah Hulme. As a member of the public attending this call, I think there is a significant PR element of having a discount. Whether that's admission or whether that is a membership for veterans, with a large Air Force base here and a large military presence in Las Vegas, I think that, you know when people call and ask if there is a discount for veterans and we say no, I think that that is not good publicity for the museum. So I think these other elements but I appreciate it's another level of administration and it's another membership but it's the message that you're sending. And not only to veterans but to the rest of the community in terms of respect for veterans. So I think that's worth considering as another--as sort of an ROI that you can't measure.

Petersen: Well, yeah, Sarah, you're--this is Jan in Elko. You're right and I'm solely supporting we can do a discount for veteran admissions. But as far as membership, I just assume--I don't think you need to do a special category.

Freedman: This is Myron Freedman for the record. So how do you determine if someone's a veteran? What do they show at the admissions desk? Because we've run into this before and on days when we have had special programs, you know, focused on military service, like we did during the armistice, we did offer free admission that day to veterans and simply did not check anybody's credentials, we just took them at their word because we knew people would not be carrying around
special cards that said, "I'm a veteran." Maybe some would but not all. Or most.

Allison: Right.

Freedman: But one thing you could do, perhaps--but they'd have to come up with some documentation, is on that senior category, you know, it could be kind of a catch-all discount. And again, going back to students, it could be senior students, veterans, you know, pay the $20 membership fee. So, you know, you can indicate that you do have a discount for those categories but it's all lumped into, you know, one area. Something like that.

Stoldal: Well, I mean, I think the annual programs that we do--and I think there's couple of them each year, I think we've got in one discussion at a board meeting about--we had a Navy day at one place and an Army day or something like that that we wanted. We felt we needed to make a generic veterans or active duty. I'm trying to think what other facilities in Las Vegas, what other museum facilities in Las Vegas do in that category.

Allison: This is Bryan for the record. I looked and didn't see any veterans or active--some of them do have admission policies but none of them had membership discounts that I saw. And I'm not--it wasn't exhaustive but I looked at Mob Museum, I looked at--maybe I just looked at Mob Museum. I know I looked at a couple of different ones, though and I didn't see--most of their membership categories are very close to what we offer.

Stoldal: And I feel comfortable that we don't need a veteran's membership policy, per se. We can always change that if all of a sudden, we get a lot of calls. But I think we do need to deal with a little bit more specificity with how we handle admissions, as far as veterans and active duty.

Allison: Right. Well, I'm not hearing a lot of support and then I--Sarah, I do appreciate your points and I know what you're saying but I'm not hearing a lot of support to do something around membership and creating some new categories on membership. Peter, if we're talking about admission policies, is that something that we should just bring the item up to the Board for discussion there or what would you recommend?

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. We handle the admission policies annually in June, so I think that this committee could report out that we considered these elements and determine that they're best handled under the admission policy and then deal with that in June at the full board. There's no subcommittee, per se, that deals with that.

Allison: Okay. I think that's a great recommendation. Okay. Does anybody have anything else to say on this or I'll move on? Okay. Moving on to number item
six, standardized membership collateral. The idea is to incorporate standardized new existing language for board membership policy into their membership messaging, which, you know, beyond kind of making sure that this is communicated out that we do get everybody kind of on the same page and matching the policy, which I think this will do, some other notes I had were to make sure to include the tax deduction information. I did see that on some of the collateral but it wasn't everywhere. Make sure that we clarify who does and doesn't get the quarterly. It's pretty good but I think we just want to make sure everybody's reviewing their materials. Make sure that the benefit to all museums is listed. It's clearer on some than others that this is for all of the state museums when you become a member. Make sure that the Las Vegas Springs Preserve benefit is listed and clarified that the 15 percent discount is at all museum stores. In some cases, it sounds, from the collateral, like it's simply at that store where you become a--or the museum where you become a member and not at all museum stores.

Does anybody have any other thoughts on that?

Stoldal: Bryan, just maybe for Catherine and Myron, is there any reason why we can't have a standardized membership form?

Allison: I don’t want to speak for them and I want to hear their thoughts. Just as a third party reviewing these things, I think that the flavor and the uniqueness of each institution is important to maintain from a messaging perspective. So I don't think a standardized form is required, I just think we need to make sure everybody's using the same terminology as it relates to those membership categories and benefits. Catherine and--

Barton: Peter Barton for the record. I would absolutely agree with that. I think that it's important to have the icon of a particular museum on their form and perhaps their mission or a brief statement about why membership in that particular institution is important. And then what we're hoping to standardize, as I understand it, is the language below, that your commitment to membership in the Nevada State Museum includes a subscription to the Nevada Historical Society quarterly, it includes this admission benefit, yada, yada, yada. So that's what we want to standardize, not that we want to--

Stoldal: Bryan--

Barton: --homogenize the whole form.

Stoldal: That was the idea was to standardize what's below their name (inaudible) and ID, that all that other stuff is (inaudible) apologize for not being clear.

Allison: Oh, okay.
Freedman: This is Myron Freedman for the record. And I agree with your sentiments on this as it's expressed by Peter and you, Bryan. I think that's the way we would approach it.

Magee: Hi, this is Catherine for the record. And I agree (inaudible) I know that we get asked that I don't know the answer is some of the higher end memberships, benefactor, those kind of things. We don't really know--people say, well, what are the benefits of those and other than the joy of giving us more money, I don't know what we--is there some standard, something that we could be offering at those higher levels (inaudible) helpful to maybe have a standardized blurb of what those (inaudible) to the museum.

Allison: Yeah, and in my notes--this is Bryan for the record. In my notes--we're on the same page, Catherine. Because I actually have it under item 11, I'm not sure where it should go. But it about codifying the two membership types, which one is a lifetime membership in Carson City and then one is your 499 clause. And then we do lift, in the policy, the higher level memberships and fees but we don't list the benefits. And I didn't know--and I guess we can discuss it at this point. If those needed to be outlined in that policy or it--as they are today, should they be left at your discretion, again, so that you can customize them based on what works best for people who are willing to become higher level members and benefactors.

Freedman: Myron Freedman for the record. So, you know, that's the opportunity, I think, for each institution to attract those higher level members with things that are really specific, the kinds of things they can get at that museum. Then you mentioned the lifetime membership. That's something that I think we should take another look at and make sure we're clear on who can qualify for lifetime membership. Sometimes we're asked to consider giving those as acknowledgements and to be perfectly honest, I'm not clear on what the requirements are.

Allison: Well, this is Bryan, for the record. In the policy itself, there is a category listed as honorary life and the note is bestowed at the discretion of and by action of the Board of Museums and History to past department directors and others who have provided service and distinction to Nevada State Museums. And then in all of the membership information that I looked at, the sign up forms and whatnot, the only one that listed a lifetime was your museum. And I'm just trying to scroll through it real quick.

Barton: Actually--

Allison: I don't think it really specified how you get that.

Freedman: I'm gonna check into it.
Stoldal: Well, I think that most facilities have a lifetime membership and it's usually at a high level, you know, three or four thousand dollars or something that would, in essence, sort of pay for itself administratively. We don't have that category. Although our best one is benefactor. I mean, we could have one that is a lifetime membership but then we're starting to talk about the other question, what do you get for that?

Allison: Right.

Petersen: Okay.

Stoldal: Go ahead.

Petersen: This is Jan in Elko and I'm just gonna throw another bone in the pile here. I looked into others like California and the Northeastern Nevada Museum which is far apart. They have a special pioneer family membership or pioneer descendent would be more appropriate, that is--well, in Elko, it's $500. It might be an inducement for people who've been here since dirt began, who joined, may not have otherwise known or indicated an interest. Just a thought. And we don't have to decide it now, I'm just throwing it out there for pondering at this point.

Freedman: This is Myron Freedman. I think this is something that requires a little more thought. Because on the one hand, yes, you do want to encourage that kind of lifetime association with the institution. On the other hand, a lot of those people are benefactors, meaning, you know, you want to be able to rely on them year after year to be supportive of the museum. So it's a little tricky.

Barton: Yeah, this is Peter Barton for the record. I would echo what Myron has just stated. In my research, there is a tendency to move away from lifetime memberships in these types of non-profit institutions for that very reason. That the people who have that commitment in mind, the institution, long term, also have the means to support it. You know, you give it away, a lifetime membership at $1200, you're kind of closing the door in a sense to further revenue from that individual. So I just personally would tend to move away from that and be more inclined to promote patron and benefactor memberships.

Freedman: Myron Freedman for the record. And reserve honorary for some of the things that you listed before, you know.

Petersen: On a case by case basis.

Freedman: Well, for service to the museum.

Allison: Sure.
Petersen: Yeah.

Allison: This is Bryan. That's already in our policy, so it sounds like we don't need to change anything. I just was raising the question about whether we needed to, you know, define some of these higher level memberships. But it sounds like the thought is to kind of leave them at the discretion of the museum directors and administrator and not put anything beyond--again, right now, it defines what the levels are and those are sustaining, contributing, patron, benefactor and then that honorary life. And it defines what the costs are but it doesn't define the benefits, so it sounds like we don't need to make any changes unless anybody has any other thoughts.

Stoldal: Well, other than we, I mean, it seems, at the state museum down in Carson, that life membership has slipped into their--so I think we need to basically eliminate that.

Freedman: I'm gonna clean that up. I have somebody starting in a new membership position in a week and a half, so that's something we're gonna look at.

Stoldal: Okay, great.

Allison: And then I did--I don’t think we need to necessarily take action on the collateral, making sure that everybody's on the same page. That would just flow out of the meeting, is that correct?

Barton: Peter Barton for the record. My recommendation is after this meeting, we should come up with kind of a summary that says, you know, this committee met on January 16 and March 6 and the following actions are recommended to the Board. And I think you would just summarize and say that, you know, we want to standardize collateral, not to homogenize every portion of it but that the benefits portion are consistent and would include tax deduction information, clarification on who gets the quarterly, etcetera, etcetera. So I think we'd summarize that to the Board. I don't think you need to take any specific action on this particular item.

Allison: Okay.

Stoldal: Just a question before we move on from the patron and benefactor. Are we suggesting we don't need a consistent policy across the--we leave that up to the museum directors? 'Cause that could get out of hand. We have seven different--or six facilities, you know, one could be offering X, Y and Z. If you join, you know, if we listed (inaudible) you know what,. I think I'm gonna join the Historical Society because they're gonna give me a silver medallion, they're gonna give me the following, where Las Vegas only gives me a bronze.
Freedman: Myron Freedman for the record. Well, I think people joining these museums are doing is in their regions or in their communities. I do think, Bob, to kind of give that opportunity to those who kind of share that vision for the statewide system of museums, maybe we could look at including a level that really acknowledges that. But I think--and Catherine, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think each museum is really encouraging people within the local community or their local region to come and be a part of the activities at that museum and not necessarily--not that we're discouraging them from looking at the statewide museums but all we can really offer is what's happening at our museum. So we tend to be very excited and inclusive about everybody in the area and try not to dilute that message, I guess is what I'm trying to say. Try not to dilute that message with things that they're not going to have access to unless they really make an effort. If that makes any sense.

Stoldal: Well, are you saying that you're no longer are gonna mail out to the southern part of the state memberships?

Freedman: No, no, no. I'm not saying that at all. I'm just saying that we were talking about competing collateral for these higher levels and I'm just saying that somebody in Las Vegas may not be attracted to Carson City because we get a--we're offering things up here, I mean, we're so far away from them, I'm not sure that our premiums are going to be attractive to anybody other than someone in the Northern Nevada area. That's what I'm saying.

Stoldal: Well, I don't fully disagree with you but on the other hand, we're talking about and the potential, I think, we also have to deal with Bryan, is that we may want to look at some of our lower levels. They're pretty low compared to facilities around the, I mean, they're really down near the bottom. But if I'm gonna give $1,000, maybe I'm gonna ask, Myron, what are you gonna give me for that $1,000? You just gonna let me know when there's events or are you going to give me something off the printing press, off the coin press?

Freedman: So are you joining the Carson City museum specifically to get those premiums?

Stoldal: Yes.

Freedman: Okay. Well, of course we're going to be excited to have you become a member and give you those premiums, absolutely. But you are--I guess I'm getting a little confused then about your initial suggestion, which had to do with, you know, if you're joining--are you receiving--as a benefactor for the Las Vegas Museum, are you receiving that level of benefits from all the museums, we all have to kind of pony up those premiums because you joined at that level in Las Vegas? In which case, are we getting a cut of that dollar that you're--

Stoldal: Yeah, I understand. The only thing is, I was hoping that there would be some similarity in what we're offering a benefactor. But I hear what you're--no. Well,
if you're--let me just think that out loud. If I'm going to join as a benefactor to the state museum system, maybe I should get--well, where does that--okay. So I guess then the checkmark is are--at those higher levels, is that the system or is that the entity?

Allison: It's the entity.

Freedman: Yeah, Myron Freedman. It is the entity right now. But Bob, I think you raise a good point. You know, if there are people out there who have that kind of vision for the statewide system, you know, maybe there is a level and then the funds that are paid into that get distributed across all the museums or something like that. But I think that would have to be an additional level.

Allison: Yeah, that would be something new. 'Cause I know what you're saying, Bob. And that was why I raised the question whether we needed to somehow standardize what those benefits look like at each institution. But my own personal belief is each institution knows what is going to resonate with the people who they're trying to attract at that level and the benefit that they--and I think what Myron's saying, somebody who really is invested in Carson City and what happens at the history of the museum there is going to be more interested than a medallion. Whereas somebody who's interested in becoming a $1,000 member benefactor in Las Vegas might want some completely different premium. And even though it might not have the same dollar amount, it might have higher value to them because it resonates more with how they associate with the museum. And so I just feel that's hard to standardize or codify and that's why I was proposing to leave it up to the different museum directors to figure that out.

Stoldal: Carrie, is there a cost issue that we need to deal with here? I mean, is there a accounting issue as far as these things?

Edlefsen: Oh, anything that involves revenue and expenditure has an accounting effect. Right now, you know, I can maintain that each of the memberships stay and benefit each of their individual entity that it comes from. If you're looking at creating a statewide system membership, sure, there would be some reconciliation, there would be, you know, there'd be another level of administration in that to make sure that the statewide high level memberships benefitted each entity with the revenue equally. It'd just be a separate allocation.

Stoldal: Yeah, I was thinking (inaudible) just the idea of we take the money out for the quarterly. Are there other cost elements deducted from the revenue of the membership at each facility? In other words, does Myron report to you that he gives a coin for contributor or a patron and that's deducted from the revenue? Or is that just in-house accounting?
Edlefsen: Carrie Edlefsen for the record. That is just in-house accounting. All we do is allocate the cost for the quarterly subscription currently.

Stoldal: All right, thank you.

Myron: Bryan, this is Myron. I have to pop into another board meeting for my Friends group. I'll join you again in a little bit.

Allison: Okay. Thanks, Myron. Okay. Well, I think the idea of a statewide or system wide membership is something to keep in mind. We don't have--I hadn't anticipated that for today but I'm gonna include that for ongoing discussions and consideration. And does anybody else have any other thoughts on item six before we move on? Okay. Item seven, standardized membership cards. This is something--I think it's a great idea. I like some of the collateral that Peter sent out for our first meeting. The look of it. I like the standardized idea. Again, anecdotally, every time I go up to Carson City and I go to the museum, you know, the guard is amazed by my Las Vegas museum card. He's never seen one before, so I think to make things easier, having a standardized card that reflects the home museum, so to speak, would be useful for staff and it would also just help kind of create more identity, I think. How do we go about doing that, Peter?

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. I will continue to work with the art department over at Travel Nevada and try to build on some of those visuals that we did share at the earlier meeting so that each museum gets kind of an iconographic image and standardizes with the current approved logo art, if you will, for the division, so that that's shown on each one, kind of standardizes it. But individualizes it with an icon image of the museum. I'll work with Travel Nevada, see how quickly we can get that. It may not be for the March meeting. Their art department generally is three to four weeks out before they can take on a project, but I'll get it in the queue.

Allison: Okay. Good. Anybody have any other thoughts on that?

Stoldal: No. I think it's ready. But I think the examples we already have would be something we could show the Board.

Allison: Right.

Stoldal: (Inaudible).

Allison: Okay. Uh, number eight, item eight, discuss renewal process. I just know, again, for myself, I have had very spotty kind of renewal activity in terms of renewing my own memberships. And I just didn't know if there was a process that was in place, if there were recommendations we could make. If maybe doing some kind of a pro-rated membership or something where, you know,
March 1 is when these renew so that it makes it easier for the museums. Just wanted to get some thoughts on how this might work a little bit better because it seems like once we have someone as a member, keeping them in the system and either--obviously, if we can get them to be a sustaining member where they provide a credit card and we just charge it every year, that's great but are there any thoughts about how to improve this process and any understanding about how it kind of works today?

Stoldal: Well, let's see what the sustaining--Stoldal for the record. I think we need to have a sustaining or evergreen or whatever we want to call it, I think sustaining is pretty standardized. We need to move that higher within the forum, so it's not something sort of buried down at the bottom. I think we need to put that right up there with the category, what membership level that they are selecting. So it's just a matter of where we format that page. But I will tell you, at the public radio station, it has gone up dramatically in the generation of revenue over the last three or four years. So I think it's important that we figure out a way to highlight that and emphasize that.

Magee: This is Catherine Magee for the record. We don't have an auto renewal facility to do our memberships. We cannot--we don't have anything where we--as far as I know, there's nothing in our system that allows us to automatically charge somebody's credit card or automatically debit out of somebody's bank account. We here, I know, don't have that facility and we do renewals monthly.

Edlefsen: Hi. This is Carrie Edlefsen for the record. The State of Nevada Treasurer's office has a strict policy that we are not to hold onto or maintain credit card numbers. So every time we get a credit card number and we process it, we are required to destroy it immediately. We can't maintain it in our system for any auto renewals. It's something that is done out there in the private sector and however they maintain it, that's fine but the state treasurer's office has told us that if we do that, we will lose our ability to process credit cards.

Stoldal: Well (inaudible) it's also done in the public sector. I mean, Nevada Public Radio's not a private institution.

Edlefsen: But it's not a state institution.

Stoldal: Right (inaudible).

Hulme: Carrie, this is Sarah Hulme, for the record. I mean, the way that all private organizations work in terms of renewal, is the data encrypted and so you're not physically holding it and you're not keeping it in a spreadsheet that people could open or whatever. But it's held in the software system and encrypted. Are we saying that the state does not recognize that as a level of protection and therefore, that's an exception?
Edlefsen: The state just will not recognize it. It is a violation of our control and we will lose the ability to process credit cards.

Allison: Right.

Hulme: Okay, thank you.

Stoldal: Well, then I think we need to farm out our whole membership to a private company.

Hulme: This is Sarah Hulme for the record. Or you could give it to your Friends group. We currently have auto renewal processed on our credit card members payment method. They opt in at the time that they first start. They actually say, "Yes, we want to renew every year," and that resides in our system and therefore just populates automatically, so we can do that.

Stoldal: I'm wondering whether or not the Friends of the railroad museums have sustaining, as well. Also makes me nervous, I have to say. Peter in that under the revised statutes, the museum board is responsible for setting up all memberships. And now we have other entities that are allowed to join that and provide free admission, etcetera. But I don't know if we need to bring that--I don't want to bring that up at this point but, well, that's an entry I was--Carrie, I was unaware of that. That really is a significant problem for us.

Barton: Yeah, and for the record, Peter Barton. And I would just reinforce that we were all subjected to mandatory treasurer's office training on this about a month and a half ago and came home with a two-inch binder full of new state rules and regulations. And they really clamped down hard on electronic payment processing. And, yeah, we were--a lot of new rules that I don't necessarily agree with but I don't get to make the decisions on their regulations.

Stoldal: Bryan, I think we need to put in a paragraph that we addressed this issue so the full board knows that this is a potential opportunity but right now, we don't have that ability to do that.

Allison: I agree.

Petersen: This is Jan.

Allison: Oh, go ahead, Jan.

Petersen: I just have a quick question. You guys have the answer but because I'm new, I don't know. You send out some sort of email or paper letter saying your dues are due for the yearly?
Magee: This is Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society. Yes. Every month, we send out membership renewals because we--as people come in and they want to join, we keep track of that in our (inaudible) system and also through spreadsheets and index cards, as well. So every month, we are sending those out.

Magee: Okay, thank you.

Allison: Oh, go ahead. So then Catherine, once you get the--or send those forms out, people then send back their credit card information, a check and then you have to re-enter it each time?

Magee: Yes. We actually take checks. If they want to use a credit card, we ask for them to come into the--into our museum store.

Allison: Oh, okay. So taking them over the phone, is that because of the state regulation or is that just--

Magee: We can take it over the phone but we follow the procedures where we destroy the credit card information right afterwards.

Allison: Sure. Yeah. Okay. Yeah, that is a bummer. Well, we will--I agree, Bob, we should mention that we brought this up and we'll see if anybody has any additional ideas on how we could accomplish this. Okay. Um--

Maureen: This is Maureen from Las Vegas.

Allison: Oh, hey, Maureen.

Maureen: Hey. I was just curious, I wanted to ask Carrie. Is there a restriction against hiring a service to handle membership payments or credit card--that kind of thing? Or is it just that the state can't control it or can you outsource it?

Edlefsen: I believe that it would spread out to any third party that we would hire to do it. I can look into a little bit deeper. You know, I mean, we all--there are, out there, membership software management systems but I'd have to take a look. I mean, we were threatened pretty hard through the treasurer's office of any violation of anything in those controls. And Maureen, you had to sign one of those agreements just like the rest of us did. There was no wiggle room in there for storage of any credit card numbers, encrypted or otherwise.

Maureen: Okay, thank you.

Allison: Okay. Moving on to number nine, discuss possible division participation of museums for all and how that might impact memberships. I'll hand this off to Peter.
Barton: Yeah, for the record, Peter Barton. Thank you, Bryan. And I sent yesterday, just the one page information sheet on this program. Pardon me. And it's not really for this committee or under their purview but again would likely come up in June in a conversation about admission policies. This is a new initiative from the Institute of Museum and Library Services aimed at assisting lower income visits to museums using an individual's EBT card as the tool or the identifier for this particular audience. Recommends either free admission or low cost or discounted admission, not to exceed three dollars per visitor, up to four visitors per EBT card. I know in conversations with the managers at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, they are likely to take this to this board for action soon. They want to participate in this program. Yesterday, I got a call from the EBT card coordinator for the state through the Division of Welfare Services, wanting to know why the only museum in Nevada that participates in this program is the Las Vegas Discovery Museum. So I quickly brought her up to speed with what our capacity is and how we do things and then said, you know, there's 75 other museums across the state which we have no control over their particular admission policy. So I just put this out there, it really doesn't impact the membership program in any way but I thought this committee should be aware of it because it's likely to circle back in June. That's why it's an information item only.

Allison: Okay. That seems like a good program. Does anybody else have any comments on this? Okay, thank you Peter for bringing this to our attention. Number ten, discussion of time table to enable online membership sales. Is that impacted in any way by the new rules? It doesn't seem like it would be but’ll ask that question.

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. No, it is not. We can do electronic transactions and we do them quite frequently. It's just in the retention of certain data that we have to be far more vigilant in. So there's no impact here, again, I think once we have Board concurrence in March and we have the supporting materials ready, and by that, I mean, we've decided and we've produced the new membership card and the new membership form, we can go online with the sales relatively quickly. That module is already in each of the websites. It's a matter of letting the treasurer know and making sure that we've got all the backend approved with the treasurer, which is just to make sure that, you know, if there's a new merchant ID number needed, that they handle that for us. And then it's turning the switch. So I think we're within, conceivably, a couple of months of being able to do that.

Allison: Great. Bryan Allison for the record. The one thing I would say is--I think having this enabled, even though we're restricted somewhat by not being able to retain credit card numbers and automatically charge people's credit cards, having the ability for them to do this transaction online I think will make a big difference. When we can send them an email and say, "Hey, your renewal's up,
click here, enter this information," it's so much easier than having to fill out a form, make a phone call, send a check.

Barton: Yeah.

Allison: So I think that, you know, for the time being, this is the best we can do, so I think this will be really great to have in place.

Barton: Yeah. Okay.

Allison: Any other comments on that? Okay. It sounds like on number 11, Peter, I'll work with you. Anything you need from me and Lori and Carrie, anything you guys need from me to provide for that meeting, it sounds like we're just going to come back with what we've recommended here and then some updates on these items so that the Board can take action. Do we need to vote on anything? I think we've already done that.

Barton: For the record, Peter Barton. I think you're good on the action items. Yeah, I mean, I think if you've got the time, Bryan, to pull a summary of these two meetings and the actions that we're recommending and can get that to us--I'm gonna look at Lauri. When are we--we're moving books, packages go out?

Brown: Thirteenth, eleventh (inaudible).

Barton: Yeah, so I need all materials for board books, if we're going to ship them or include them in the backup materials that go out in advance of the meeting. We'll need that by next Monday. They're gonna produce books on Tuesday and I think the intent is to ship on the 13th and also post the agenda on the 13th.

Allison: No problem. Have it to you--I'll have it to you this week.

Barton: Okay.

Allison: And if you need anything else from me, just let me know. But, yeah, I'll--what would you say in terms of format (inaudible) Word document or--

Barton: Yeah, Word document is fine. You can do a PDF. I mean, I think there's some pretty valuable information that came out of that first meeting in that Power Point you created that converted to a PDF. Maybe some changes to that to reflect what's happened at this meeting would be prudent. And I can certainly include then the graphic images of the membership cards.

Allison: Perfect. I'll get that to you, like I said, I'll either--I'll be by tomorrow. Number 12--oh, I'm sorry. Did anybody else have any thoughts on the board meeting?
Stoldal: Just a minor point. I would, Bryan, if you'd just include a copy off the top of the NRS 381.0045, just so they've got the language.

Barton: Okay.

Allison: Okay. Number 12, next steps. I think we just did that. Number 13, public comment and discussion. Public comment is welcome by the committee. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to three minutes at the discretion of the Chair. Speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers. Is there anything anybody has to say?

Stoldal: Stoldal for the record. I would like to simply thank Bryan, this membership thing has been hanging out there for a good period of time. Really appreciate your leadership in moving this forward. And Peter and Carrie, as well, as long with the rest of the membership committee. I think we've made some good progress and I think it's just gonna help across the board. Thank you.

Hulme: Hello, Bryan. Sarah Hulme for the record. I think one of the things that also triggered these meetings was the proposals of the Friends of the Nevada State Museum, I think, has put forward to introduce a combination membership along with the museum here, so that we have a bind membership, similar to the way that they have in some of the other museums, as well. I haven't seen that on the agenda and we don't seem to have got to that point (inaudible) but I would like to raise that and that was something that was, as I say (inaudible) forward last year.

Allison: Yes. I agree that that is something that I've had on my list. My plan was to try to kind of get things organized first and feel like we've made good progress in the first quarter. But I plan to continue to have meetings in-between the board meetings and that will be on our agenda. So thank you for bringing that up. It is not forgotten.

Hulme: Okay, thank you, Bryan, thanks.

Allison: No, no. Thank you for bringing it up. Anybody else? Okay. Thanks everybody, we're adjourned.