

Museum Advisory Board. Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 5:30 PM @ the Museum

1. Call to Order 5:33

2. Roll Call Vickie McCubbin, Billy Whisenant, Victor Ochoa, Joe Martinez, Kathleen Dinges-Rice, Linda Layton, Jasper Smith Board members – Marilyn Mortin, Council Liaison, Amy Christensen, Museum Director

3. Minutes

3.1. Regular Meeting 12/10/2025

3.2. Regular Meeting 01/14/2026 – Kathleen moved 2nd by Billy - passed

4. Visitors/Public Comment – Chris Primrose, visitor

5. Staff Report – 243 volunteer hours tracked, nearly half were Chris Primrose. Events at Valkyrie have gone well, getting different people – donations accepted. Adopt an artifact night – made over \$700, about 50 people in attendance.

2 new interns from Linfield beginning this week. 2 women with experience in museums. Friday, WOU History project will be coming with 5 students and History dean and public affairs to photograph – with Joe and I to assist 1 – 5 on Friday. Photo stations set up. First time our textiles have been photographed, we can make online content with that.

Time travel through play going on display March 11 – nostalgic toy, childhood items.

Working on RR exhibit for the library – no rush to do it because no one has looked at the building to buy yet.

Museum is partnering with MI organizations about 250 years – Susan G. Sabra J and Amy have been coordinating and how we can connect. The museum will work on a community quilt event. 10 by 10 square for their life in Independence, piece together panels. 300 – 400 squares make several quilts. Rotary and Friends of Parks – are paying for it. Have organizations host nights, perhaps we will coordinate with schools and Friends of the Library. Need a sewing committee. Culminate on the 4th of July. Marilyn and Chris are continuing to go through the records for the City of Independence.

Waiting to hear back regarding 2 grants. Amy has found funding to continue to support Delaina.

Message to the Community: Let people know that if their family donated items, the City continues to be stewards of this collection. (see Amy's notes) while we look at the City's financial shortfall.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Community Services & Parks Sustainability Committee Update from City Council Work Session on January 27, 2026.

Chair Seiler of the Community Services and Parks Sustainability Committee

Chair Seiler reported on the work the committee has done over the past six weeks in exploring options to help sustain community services and parks during the next budget cycle. The committee reviewed two primary short-term funding mechanisms: a levy and a utility-based fee, but concluded that a levy is better suited for long-term service enhancement rather than short-term stabilization. The committee determined that a \$19.65 monthly fee, in addition to the \$10 public safety fee, should be implemented starting fiscal year 2026-2027, with fees set no lower than the current service level. They concluded that further service cuts were not feasible. They also recommended indexing the fee using the Consumer Price Index for the West Region, along with clear transparency on utility bills about fee purposes and allocations. The proposed \$19.65 fee to maintain library, museum and park services, in some cases would be less than the levy previously considered. City officials expressed concerns about the fee's acceptance by the community, given their previous rejection of the levy, the financial hardship for some community members, and emphasized that the fee would not address underlying budget issues. However, members indicated that the levy, had it passed, would have not necessitated the sale of properties, including the museum building, and that the fee and the levy were not equivalent. The committee suggested that the proposal be brought to the full Budget Committee for further public discussion, input, and additional consideration of the fee in the context of the overall budget.

7. New Business -

7.1. Election of Advisory Board Leadership for 2026 –
Vickie will remain President. -

8. Other Discussion/Information Items

Oregon Lottery – do they support the arts – Joe will check into the Lottery.

9. Adjournment @ 6:15 pm.

Submitted by Vickie McCubbin