

Byron Museum Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Roll Call: Commissioners Present: Randy Stukenberg, Cynthia Storz, Jim Eisfeller, and Craig Bontjes. Commissioners Absent: Heather Higgins. Also Present: Executive Director Marian Michaelis.

Action Item #1 Approve Agenda: Motion by Commissioner Bontjes to approve the agenda as presented seconded by Commissioner Storz and unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by voice vote.

Action Item #2 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2026 Motion made by Commissioner Storz to approve the minutes as presented seconded by Commissioner Bontjes. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by voice vote.

Action Item #3 Approval of Expenses: Motion made by Commissioner Eisfeller to approve the July 2026 expenses as presented and file the financial report for audit, seconded by Commissioner Bontjes. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by roll call.

Director's Report:

1. Fortune Auto/Heldson Texaco: neighboring property may be coming up for sale. On the advice of our attorney, I had a consultation today with Dan Huntley of Williams McCarthy and he gave some good advice on starting points. Appraisal is the key for non-profits, offer should not exceed the highest amount. We also discussed the museum's ability to offer a tax incentive for any difference in the appraisal and lower purchase amount. First step is to search for property records and last deed of record, he also recommended talking to the city about what kind of business would be approved for the space, this could greatly impact the value. We also discussed Phase I and Phase II environmental testing... we should "assume a high probability of contamination" unless we find proof that remediation was already done, and when, etc.
2. Network to Freedom/NTF Roofing Grant: The final invoice for \$7894 has been paid to C3 Construction. The total project expenses total \$74,374. We are ready to invoice the NPS for \$35,000.

3. Network to Freedom/NTF Plumbing Upgrade Project: The new grant application was submitted on June 30 for the budget amount of \$120,000. And a 50/50 match.
4. Painting: The staff plans to do some exterior painting in Sep/Oct and I am asking that the board approve at least \$1,000 to be spent on paint and supplies. We will be focusing on the annex siding and getting at least one coat of white paint on the new trim before winter. Bert has already replaced one rotting window sill with Azek and we might also need to replace some of the lower siding boards. We already have some of that original siding material.

Action Item #4 Property Inquiry: After some discussion about the neighboring property at 111 W. Blackhawk Dr., a Motion was made by Bontjes to authorize the director to make inquiries and perform due diligence in hopes of acquisition, seconded by Eisfeller. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by roll call.

Action Item #5 Closed Session: Motion made by Bontjes to not go into a closed session, seconded by Storz. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by roll call.

Action Item #6 Grant Invoice: Motion made by Storz to approve the final project amount of \$74,374 and authorize the NTF grant reimbursement invoice amount of \$35,000, seconded by Eisfeller. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by roll call.

Action Item #7 Expenses: Motion made by Eisfeller to approve \$1,000 to be spent on paint and supplies this fall to be used on the annex siding and trim, seconded by Bontjes. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by roll call.

Action Item #8 Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. was made by Commissioner Storz, seconded by Commissioner Bontjes, and unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by voice vote.