



**NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY
("V&T Railway Commission")
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: 11/20/2023

Meeting Date Requested: 11/29/2023

Time Requested: 20 Minutes

To: NEVADA COMMISSION for the RECONSTRUCTION of the V&T RAILWAY Commissioners

From: David Peterson

Subject Title: Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed Grosh Brothers Memorial Statue to be placed on V & T Commission Property.

Staff Summary: *Bob Thomasson to present to the Commission the placement of a statue on V & T Commission property as a memorial to the Grosh Brothers.*

Type of Action Requested:

(☐) Resolution

(☐) Ordinance

(☒) Formal Action/Motion

(☐) Other (Specify) Presentation Only

Recommended Board Action: *I move to direct staff to investigate the feasibility and potential placement of the statue.*

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: n/a

Fiscal Impact:

Explanation of Impact:

Funding Source:

Supporting Material/Attachments: 20231129_VT_Item 10_Grosh Bros.

Prepared By: Chery Bailey, Executive Assistant



**Allen and Hosea
Grosh**

The Grosh Brothers were far from typical prospectors of their day. Erudite and articulate, they studied geology, metallurgy and ore processing. Arriving in the California gold fields in 1849, they were focused on bringing success for their family back in Pennsylvania. They also worked on a water powered perpetual motion machine, gold recovery system and improved methods of ore processing. Coming close, but never succeeding in California, they made several trips to what would become the Comstock Lode area. Historians are not in agreement that the Grosh Brothers discovered the main Comstock Lode, but there is no disagreement that their lives were significant and had they lived longer and avoided the Shakespearian tragedy of their final days, the story of the Comstock Lode would have been written much differently. Their fascinating story is critical for a correct and accurate understanding of one of the richest and wildest times in Nevada history.

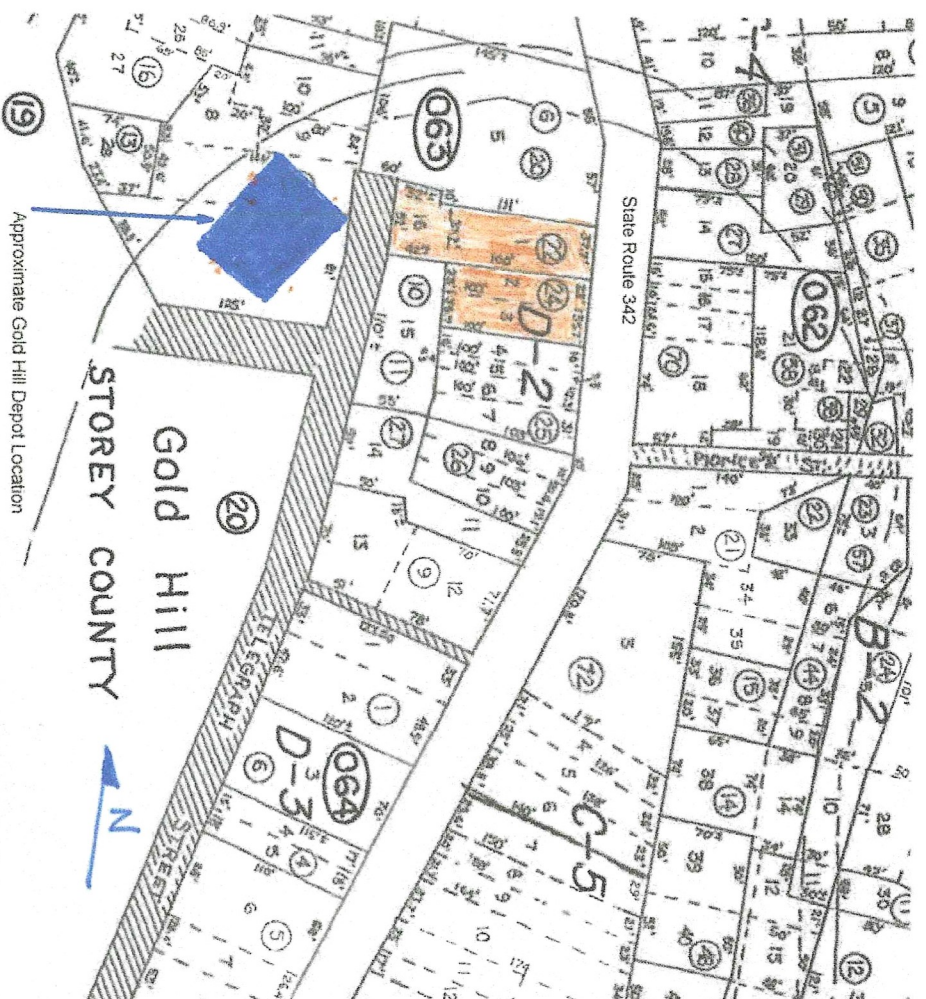


Greg Melton's conceptual sketch of the statue honoring the memory of the Grosh Brothers. The statue will be sized to what sculptors call "Heroic Size" or 1.25 lifesize. The total height will be about 10 feet and the footprint will be about an 8 foot diameter. The actual base will likely be smaller than pictured and will hold one or more plaques outlining the lives of the Grosh brothers and acknowledging the organizations and individual who contributed to the monument.

20+ years ago, Grahame Ross and Greg Melton (Brilliant local sculptor, creator of the large “Tribute to Nevada Miners” statue at the Nevada State Capitol grounds) discussed a sculpture in honor of the Grosh Brothers. At the time, the project didn’t get beyond Greg’s conceptual sketches. Greg has never gave up but fate, tragically and somewhat in parallel with the Grosh brothers, cut his career short. He is disabled due to the effects of agent orange from his Vietnam war service and he can no longer sculpt. To some extent this monument is also a tribute to Greg Melton. We have identified four qualified sculptors who are interested in the project.

- A suitable location is one of the keys to this project. Ideally, a location will be historically correct (near the area where the events
- being commemorated took place), be visible
 - to the public, be secure, have utilities, have other nearby attractions and have adequate parking.

With the exception of utilities, which are not necessary for this type of display, the Railway Commission property is nearly ideal.



The orange shaded area is the Commission property.
The exact sculpture location will require site evaluation and discussion.

The installation will require some equipment and a labor force but should not disrupt any local activities. Once installed, the sculpture will require little to no maintenance. The area immediately surrounding the statue will be professionally landscaped with local materials for zero or little maintenance .

Josea Grosh is buried in the Silver City Cemetery and the Comstock Cemetery Foundation has offered to provide the 501(c)(3) non-profit umbrella for fundraising and other related activities. The nuts and bolts of this working relationship are being worked out.

A similar working relationship will have to be arranged with the Railway Commission. Our goal is to minimize any additional or unexpected Commission work due to the sculpture project.

Some of the projects that probably need to be discussed:

- Surveying of the property
- Additional Insurance requirements (if any) and cost
- Any necessary legal work
- Ongoing maintenance – should be very minimal
- Coordination with Storey County and the Comstock Historic District

There are numerous advantage and benefits to this Gold Hill location:

- **A much needed focal point for the Gold Hill Community**
- **The Gold Hill Depot is underutilized and underappreciated, the sculpture will bring attention and possibly new events.**
- **An educational and historic attraction for V&T passengers**

Fundraising

Fundraising will be focused on Individual Donors, Benefactors (individuals or corporate), Major and Micro Grants and In Kind donations of goods and/or services. We may also sell miniature versions of the sculpture and commemorative Grosh Brothers silver medallions as fundraisers.

Benefactors have expressed an interest in supporting the project. We can begin serious fundraising once we have a definite location.

Comments, suggestions and questions are welcomed. Thank you