

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY

Minutes of the Thursday, September 26, 2024 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Nevada Commission for the reconstruction of the V&T Railway was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, in the Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Boardroom, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The meeting video is available on Carson City’s website by clicking on the link below:

https://carsoncity.granicus.com/player/clip/2526?view_id=2&redirect=true

PRESENT: Chairperson David Peterson
Vice Chair Clay Mitchell
Treasurer Leah Kruse
Secretary Stephanie Hicks
Commissioner Michelle Schmitter

STAFF: Mihaela Neagos, Deputy District Attorney
Cherrie Bailey, Executive Assistant
Tamar Warren, Senior Deputy Clerk

1 – 3. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(1:02:01) – Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Chairperson Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(1:03:03) – Chairperson Peterson entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 28, 2024, MEETING AND AUGUST 14, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

(1:04:13) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained comments, edits, or a motion.

MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2024, regular meeting and the August 14, 2024 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and carried 5-0-0.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE REASSIGNMENT OF THE TRACK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FY22-C003 WITH GABRIEL WILLAMAN RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION (“GABRIEL WILLAMAN”) ENDING MARCH 31, 2026, TO CHRIS FRETTER DBA BATTLEBORN RAIL, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

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(1:04:36) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item, gave background, and referenced the information presented in the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record. He also clarified that Gabriel Willaman had transferred ownership of the current contract with Gabriel Willaman Railroad Construction ending March 31, 2026, to Chris Fretter, who was willing to continue track maintenance services to the V&T Commission under the same terms and conditions contained in the original contract. Chairperson Peterson noted that the new insurance certificate was still pending. Mr. Fretter of Battle Born Rail pointed out that the insurance agent planned to “get back to us” on the insurance policy update. Vice Chair Mitchell received confirmation from Mr. Fretter that he would work closely with Tom Gray of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad (V&TRR) Company. Mr. Fretter also highlighted his experience working on track maintenance as part of his past employment. Secretary Hicks thanked Mr. Willaman “for all that you have done for us” and welcomed Mr. Fretter. Ms. Neagos clarified that the Commission must provide written consent to the Assignment of Rights (titled Assignment of Contract and incorporated into the record) and recommended that the Commission approve having Chair Peterson sign the Reassignment upon verification of the pending insurance documents. There were no public comments; therefore, Chairperson Peterson entertained a motion.

MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to approve the Reassignment of the Contract, as discussed on the record, subject to verification of meeting the proper insurance requirements. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH STORYTIME PHOTOGRAPHY, FOR PHOTOS WITH SANTA CLAUS AT THE EASTGATE DEPOT DURING THE 2024 POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE EVENT.

(1:11:55) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and reviewed the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. He stated that this agreement was similar to the one approved in 2023 when the Commission had received 30 percent of the gross sales. According to the proposed 2024 revenue-sharing agreement, the V&T Commission will receive 35 percent of the gross sales in 2024. He anticipated the revenue sharing to be around \$12,250 based on the revenue the Commission had received for the same event in the past.

(1:13:00) – Laura Main of Storytime Photography thanked the Commission for the opportunity and highlighted a few items in her proposal. She noted that the price of the Digital Flash Drive with 8-10 images and 2 Folios would increase to \$53; however, she believed the print photo prices should not increase. Commissioner Schmitter was informed that event attendees had the opportunity to take the photographs before or after the trip. Ms. Main also recommended having additional signage for photos. There were no public comments; therefore, Chairperson Peterson entertained a motion.

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MOTION: Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the revenue-sharing agreement with Storytime Photography as presented. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Hicks and carried 5-0-0.

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

MONTHLY NON-ACTION ITEMS:

a. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE

(1:17:55) – Ms. Bailey reported on another successful wine train, although they were short-handed. She also proposed selling off the additional wine bottles or using them as appreciation gifts. Chairperson Peterson recommended agendaing the discussion for the next meeting. Ms. Baily explained that they were working on the Polar Express Event.

b. OPERATIONS/TRAINS REPORT

(1:21:39) – V&TRR Sales and Marketing Coordinator Candy Duncan announced that the Polar Express Event tickets had been for sale since September 15, 2024, and they had received 1,123 online orders in one day, adding that all December 14, 2024 tickets had been sold. Discussion ensued regarding an online announcement stating tickets were still available. Treasurer Kruse also suggested having a digital media blast regarding ticket availability. Ms. Duncan suggested having child ticket pricing in the coach seats in 2025 since many had chosen to have children sit in their laps. It was agreed to agenda the item for future action. She also announced that ticket sales for the regular train continued; however, she recommended creating awareness for the Sunday rides. Chair Peterson believed that the new website would better clarify the Sunday rides.

c. UPCOMING MEETINGS

**V&T COMMISSION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23,
2024 AT 9:00 AM**

(1:36:39) – Chairperson Peterson read the above item into the record.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(1:37:34) – Treasurer Kruse announced that the Virginia City Tourism Commission had approved the purchasing of access to Placer.ai by their staff. [Placer.ai is a location analytics company that collects geolocation data from mobile devices enabled to share data in an anonymized fashion.]

CLOSED NON-MEETING TO CONFER WITH OPERATIONS MANAGER AND COUNSEL.

This item did not take place.

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10. PUBLIC COMMENT

(1:38:45) – Chairperson Peterson entertained final public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(1:39:01) – Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

The Minutes of September 26, 2024, Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway meeting are so approved on this 23rd day of October 2024.

STEPHANIE HICKS, Secretary

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Stephanie A. Hicks
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