



## CULTURAL PROPERTIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs  
Historic Preservation Division  
**Cultural Properties Review Committee**  
Regular Committee Meeting  
HPD Conference Room, Santa Fe, NM  
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom  
Friday, October 10, 2025  
1:00PM

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Toya called the Cultural Properties Review Committee to order at 1:00pm.

Chair Mr. Toya stated that the CPRC is a statutory body established in 1969 under the Cultural Properties Act and it is charged with identifying and advising on the protection of the State's cultural properties. CPRC meetings are run by parliamentary procedure so please follow those rules and any action that we take by the committee during this meeting will be done by roll call vote. And with the added dimension of meeting virtually and in person I ask for everyone's patience as we follow these procedures in a virtual setting. And finally, any discussion on an agenda item may be suspended, and no Committee action will be taken in the event there is an interruption in the audio/video impacting our ability to move forward and will only resume when the issue is resolved. Welcome everyone.

Ms. Irene Rubio took the roll call, and it was determined that a **quorum was present**.

##### **Committee Members' Present:**

Mr. Ronald Toya (Chair)--- In Person  
Dr. Kelly Jenks (Vice Chair) --- Via Zoom  
Dr. Audra Bellmore (Secretary)--- In Person  
Dr. Matthew Bandy--- Via Zoom  
Dr. Hannah Mattson--- Via Zoom  
Mr. Francisco Uviña --- Via Zoom

##### **Committee Members Absent:**

Mr. Garron Yepa--- Via Zoom  
Mr. Robert Martinez---Via Zoom

##### **Staff Present:**

Michelle Ensey, State Historic Preservation Officer--- In Person  
Jessica Badner, Jessica Badner, Archaeological Review, Permitting Program & SiteWatch Coordinator--- Via Zoom  
Steven Moffson, Historian, Architectural Review & State & National Register Coordinator--- Via Zoom  
Matthew Saionz, Historian, Tax Credits & Historic Markers--- In Person  
Irene Rubio, Senior Business Operations Analyst--- In Person

##### **Others Present Via Zoom:**

Anijali Taneja	Cynthia Sontag
Anthony De Leon	Samsung SM

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Dr. Bellmore made a **motion to approve the agenda as written**. Member Mr. Uviña **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed unanimously**

#### 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

##### **a. August 15, 2025**

Member Dr. Bellmore made a **motion to approve the minutes from August 15, 2025, as written**. Member Dr. Mattson **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed unanimously**

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair Mr. Toya updated the CPRC with the following information:

The Chairman attended the State Historical Preservation Conference in Las Vegas and met many of Mr. Uviña students. He also commented that they made up about half of the attendees and that everyone there knew of Mr. Uviña. He also worked with the markers committee on a couple of projects and there were couple of issues that had surfaced in the archaeology subcommittee, and we will continue to work closely with those subcommittees.

#### **5. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

Michelle Ensey provided the CPRC with the following information:

A couple of follow-ups – The Statewide Historic Preservation Conference was last week, October 3-5th at Highlands University in Las Vegas at it was very well received with over 200 attendees. The presentations were very good, there was a strong showing of staff from the Department of Cultural Affairs, both presenting and in attendance. Concluded with a talk and a panel and everyone is looking forward to the next conference, to be held in 2027. The City of Las Vegas has expressed interest in hosting it, so we'll see where that goes.

HPD held the annual archaeology fair at Ghost Ranch on September 27<sup>th</sup> and there were around 125 attendees. It wasn't as well attended as we had hoped. That's just the way it goes sometimes, and so we look forward to next year and hosting it in a more central location.

We are actively interviewing for an archaeological reviewer position. We will conclude next week with luck, we'll have a new staff member on board by the December CPRC meeting. In the meantime, we currently have 3 vacancies, two archaeology positions and a historian. The ARMS staff have been helping with our Section 106 and state reviews, for which we are all very grateful. And then lastly, there is a tax credit hearing for the revised regulation. This is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. So, if you're interested in joining us, we'll be here in this HPD Conference Room. We really don't expect anybody to attend in person, but you can also attend virtually as well.

Chairman Toya commented that he did not realize that the last conference was 11 years ago. They mentioned that at the conference in Las Vegas, so it's real exciting to have another one come up in 2027 and not wait so long.

#### **6. SUBCOMMITTEE MATTERS**

##### **Cultural Properties Restoration Fund**

##### **a. Funding Updates**

SHPO Michelle Ensey updated the CPRC with the two rounds of funding for the Cultural Properties Restoration Fund.:

All the projects from the first round, from last year, are in process. Of the 9 projects that were granted this year; three JPAs have been reviewed by state Government and sent to the Administrative Services Division for review. The others are waiting for the entity to get back to us. You know, there's been some hiccups along the way, and they get stuck in their legal counsel, and I know one was waiting to get back to us. Steven Moffson has followed up with them and will continue to check in with this. But the first group, all those joint powers are out, and projects are proceeding.

Chair said it's always the JPA that can hold these up and thank you to HPD staff, the way it's handled in-house. Every staff member is involved in keeping these doors open.

This concludes with the CPRF update.

##### **Official Scenic Historic Markers**

##### **a. New Markers**

##### **i. Otero Mesa**

Matt Saionz provided the CPRC with a presentation on the Otero Mesa Marker.

Today we are considering a new Marker for Otero Mesa. Otero Mesa spans 1.2 million acres across what is today New Mexico and Texas between the El Paso metro area in the west to the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains in the east. is home to the healthiest grasslands in the greater Chihuahuan Desert. Much of the biodiversity of the entire Chihuahuan Desert, which has few global competitors itself, occurs on this mesa. The grasslands and resources of the mesa have hosted a wide spectrum of plant and animal life. Not only herds of pronghorn, but also increasingly threatened black-tailed prairie dogs and endangered northern Olmedo falcons. Many regional species winter at and migrate to the Mesa, and Otero Mesa has relatively high climate scores, and it is drought resistant due in large part to its vast ecosystem being unfragmented throughout the 1.2 million acres,

which is quite remarkable. It is unsurprising, then, that humans have been visiting Otero Mesa for thousands of years. Of particular interest there have been several cave and rock shelters along the mesa's escarpment. Radiocarbon studies and tool analysis at sites like Pendejo Cave yielded evidence to suggest some of the earliest known human occupations in the Americas, and we'll discuss that a little bit more in a moment. And that's a conclusion that many continue to contest regarding these sites. More recent human history on Otero Mesa has been limited. Apache and Puebloan ancestors have cultural connections to the Mesa, but it does not appear that there was much human activity until ranchers began to graze cattle there in the late 19th century. The most notable episode to date occurred in 1957, when John Prather, dubbed the Mule King for supplying the Army with mules during World War I and World War II, disobeyed the federal government's order to vacate his Mesa Ranch for absorption into the McGregor missile range that was encroaching onto Mesa lands. Today, while private ranches dominate the Texas portion of the Mesa, Otero Mesa in New Mexico remains largely undeveloped public land. Conservation groups are strong advocates for Otero Mesa, with some pushing to make it even a national monument, as oil, gas, and mining interests continue to target it for new operations.

The marker was proposed by Mike Gaba, who has worked with the CPRC on several markers and nominations pertaining to the history of Otero County. The subcommittee crafted the text to really focus on the ecological significance of the mesa. John Prather was singled out because he might have been the only historically significant occupant of the mesa in a long time. We would like the CPRC's archaeologists to weigh in on the matter of the evidence of early human activity. Numerous references, among them HPD staff archaeologist Dr. Geoff Cunnar, assert that cave sites along the mesa escarpment studied in the 90s provided compelling data for a human presence much, much earlier than what we thought. Of course, in the 90s, such suggestions were not well received at all.

The proposed location for this Marker is in a very accessible dirt lot right off NM 506 at its intersection with US 54. This spot is near the northwest corner of the mesa, and, given that there aren't any towns on the mesa and very few roads to or through it, it provides a suitable view of the mesa in the distance. There are currently two markers in this pull-off, a two-sided marker for the ghost town of Turquoise and a one-sided marker for John Prather, who is of course mentioned in the proposed Otero Mesa text. We are proposing installing the Otero Mesa text as the second side of the Prather marker, as they essentially will refer to one another. In other words, instead of installing a whole new marker, this will just be a new text plate.



The CPRC discussed and came up with an agreement on the text and the Marker location.

Member Dr. Bellmore **motioned to approve the text and the approved final location destination by NMDOT for this Marker.** Member, Mr. Uviña **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

This concludes Official Scenic Historic Markers.

### Tax Credits Projects:

Member Mr. Uviña acknowledged Mr. Chair and members of the CPRC and advised that this Monday the Architectural Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the applications for the State Income Tax Credit for Preservation of Cultural Property. After reviewing that material and the Tax Credit Memorandum, I would like to make the following motions:

- a. State Income Tax Credit Projects – **Part 1 Amended Applications:**
  - i. 1 Pool Street NW, Albuquerque
  - ii. 524 Solano Drive NE, Albuquerque

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve the Part 1 Amendment application for 1 Pool Street NW, Albuquerque, with the following conditions:**

- Expenses for the roofing on the shared, detached garage pertaining to the other owner's portion of the building are ineligible for credit and are to be separated out as such in the Part 2 application.
- Roofing is not to be visible at the parapets of either building from the ground.

Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve** the Part 1 Amendment application for **24 Solano Drive NE, Albuquerque, as submitted**. Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

**b. State Income Tax Credit Projects – Part 1 Applications:**

- i.** 404 Amherst Drive NE, Albuquerque
- ii.** 424 Lafayette Place NE, Albuquerque
- iii.** 303 Twelfth Street NW, Albuquerque
- iv.** 2611 Vista Larga Avenue NE, Albuquerque

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve** the Part 1 application for **404 Amherst Drive NE, Albuquerque, as submitted**. Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve** the Part 1 application for **or 424 Lafayette Place NE, Albuquerque, with the condition that roofing is not to be visible at the parapets from the ground**. Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve** the Part 1 application for **303 Twelfth Street NW, Albuquerque, with the following conditions:**

- A lime and sand mortar such as type N or type O is to be used for repointing in the basement.
- Expenses for all tree trimming and pruning, with the exception of that related to the cottonwood, are ineligible for credit and are to be itemized as such in the Part 2 application.
- Expenses for any work done to visible fixtures in the bathroom of the detached garage are ineligible for credit and are to be itemized as such in the Part 2 application.
- Expenses for work related to the reserve osmosis water filtration system are ineligible for credit and are to be itemized as such in the Part 2 application.
- The solar fan is to be installed in a location on the roof with as little visibility from the street as possible.

Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve** the Part 1 application for **2611 Vista Larga Avenue NE, Albuquerque, with the condition that the glass is to be neither reflective nor tinted**. Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

Member Mr. Uviña **motioned to approve the Part 2 application for the following four properties** for the stated eligible expenses and tax credits:

Addresses	Eligible Expenses	50% Tax Credits
14 Berm Street NW, Albuquerque	\$3,625.42	\$1,812.71
1506 Cornell Drive NE, Albuquerque	\$20,094.16	\$10,047.08
3 Tennis Court NW, Albuquerque	\$3,425.17	\$1,712.59
310 Thirteenth Street NW, Albuquerque	\$16,271.39	\$8,135.70

Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion**. The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval**.

This concludes with Tax Credit Matters.

## **2. COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Member Dr. Bandy acknowledged Mr. Chair and members of the CPRC and advised that this Monday the Archaeology Subcommittee reviewed and discussed a wide range of issues.

- a.** Appeal under the CPRC rule 4.10.8.24 Procedures for Appealing a Decision
  - i.** February 14, 2025, decision to deny listing of Anthony John Deleon on the SHPO Directory as Supervisory Archaeologist.

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned that we untable a. Appeal under the CPRC rule 4.10.8.24 Procedures for Appealing a Decision item i. February 14, 2025, decision to deny listing of Anthony John Deleon on the SHPO Directory as Supervisory Archaeologist.** Member Dr. Jenks **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with the roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

#### **Discussion:**

Member Dr. Matthew Bandy discussed that the current regulations require a bachelor's degree to be listed as a supervisory archaeologist in anthropology or a related field. That standard has been strictly applied by the committee. The consensus of the subcommittee is that it's time to reconsider that practice and to come up with standards, guidelines, and thresholds, and apply those without bias to all applicants who come before the committee. In light of that, we would like to share our discussions. The subcommittee agreed that each exception should be an individual decision that should take into consideration the circumstances and experience of the applicant in question. But we also agree that some sort of minimum threshold should be in place so that people can understand when they might become eligible and when the committee might entertain exception applications. The current configuration of the subcommittee agrees to seriously entertaining applications in the future for supervisory archaeologists who have 8 years of full-time professional experience with one of those years in New Mexico in anthropology and or related field. Given that understanding, and intention to apply that threshold going forward we have heard Anthony John Deleon appeal, and we have agreed with his arguments.

Chair asked if Anthony John Deleon agrees with the recommendations and Mr. Anthony John Deleon responded yes and thanked the chair for asking.

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned to approve the listing of Anthony John Deleon on the SHPO Directory as a Supervisory Archaeologist.** Member Dr. Jenks **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

This concludes Committee Matters.

### **3. PERMIT MATTERS**

Member Dr. Bandy stated the Archaeology Subcommittee met this morning to discuss archaeology permit matters, and a result of our deliberations we would like to put forward the following recommendations:

- a. Applicants for Listing in the SHPO Directory under **Supervisory Archaeologist/Crew Chief:**
  - i. Lauren Goode
  - ii. Sarah Saouma

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned Lauren Goode and Sarah Saouma be listed** in the SHPO Directory under the category of **Supervisory Archeologist/Crew Chief.** Member Dr. Mattson **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with the roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

- b. Applicants for Listing in the SHPO Directory under **Principal Investigator/Project Director and Supervisory Archaeologist/Crew Chief:**
  - i. Toni Goar

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned Toni Goar be listed** in the SHPO Directory under the category of **Supervisory Archaeologist/Crew Chief, but not under Principal Investigator/Project Director due to insufficient New Mexico supervisory experience.** Member Dr. Mattson **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with the roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

- c. Applicants for Listing in the SHPO Directory under **Principal Investigator:**
  - i. Jon R. Blackwelder

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned Jon R. Blackwelder, be listed** in the SHPO Directory under the category of **Principal Investigator.** Member Dr. Mattson **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with the roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

- d. Applicants for Listing in the SHPO Directory under **Burial:**
  - i. Brianna Dittmer

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned Briana Dittmer be listed** in the SHPO Directory under the category of **Burial Supervisor.** Member Dr. Jenks **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with the roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

- e. Applications for a **3-year 2025-2027 General Investigation Permit**:
  - i. Souder Miller & Associates

Member Dr. Bandy **motioned Souder Miller & Associates receive their permit contingent upon receipt of, requested revisions to the satisfaction of staff for a 3-year 2025-2027 General Investigation Permit.** Member Dr. Mattson seconded **the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

- f. Application for an **Annual Permit to Excavate Human Burials**:
  - i. Lone Mountain

Member Dr. Mattson **motioned that Lone Mountain be issued a permit under the category Annual Permit to Excavate Human Burials.** Member Dr. Bandy **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval.**

This concludes Permit Matters.

#### **4. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- a. December 5, 2025
- b. February 13, 2026 (changed from February 8<sup>th</sup> due to a Sunday date)
- c. April 10, 2026 (changed from April 12<sup>th</sup> due to a Sunday date) other dates will be changed at a future meeting.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Dr. Jenks made a **motion to adjourn.** Member Dr. Bellmore **seconded the motion.** The Chair inquired if there is any further discussion, not hearing any, continue with roll call. Ms. Rubio initiated a roll call vote, and the **motion passed by unanimous approval,** and we adjourned at 2:00pm.