

Cayce Historical Museum Commission

May 7, 2026

Meeting Minutes

The May 7, 2026, meeting of the Cayce Historical Museum Commission (CMHC) was held in the Cayce Visitors Center. Chair Hayden convened the meeting at 5:00pm. The following individuals attended the meeting:

Name	Status
Marcy Hayden	Chair
Pamela Sulton	Vice-Chair
Chris Tenny	Secretary
James Stewart	Commissioner
Archie Moore	Commissioner
Charlita Earle	Commissioner
Keith Stephenson	Commissioner
David Brinkman	Commissioner
Kasey Lawson	Commissioner
Andy Thomas	Cayce Museum Curator
Elizabeth Lumsden	Cayce Museum Communications Assistant

Upcoming Programs & Events:

- 2:00pm on May 15, 2026: Historic Marker dedication of Friday's Ferry
- Tentatively around 10:30am on May 30, 2026: Chris Judge, presenting on Congaree Native Americans
- 11am on June 20, 2026: Juneteenth event
- July 15, 2026: USC Students Visit/Lexington County Program
- Time TBD on August 22, 2026 (tentative): Genealogy Workshop
- Time TBD in November 2026: Native American History event

Invocation: Vice-Chair Sulton

Opening Remarks:

Chair Hayden opened the meeting with remarks, noting it was already May, and reminded the CHMC to begin preparing for planning the year's remaining events, including but not limited to the Christmas event.

Commissioner Moore added to the opening remarks by calling attention to the Daniel Trumbo Troll for which the City council had approved using Tourism tax funds. He questioned the council's consideration of using the funds for the Troll and noted that Tourism tax funds, even a fraction of that allocated for the troll art installation, could have a substantial impact on the museum.

Chair Hayden added that the museum could use funds for a variety of necessary upgrades or tools, ranging from security to safety to exhibits. Commissioner Stewart added that a city-wide survey of historic resources could only require an estimated one-quarter of the troll cost. Vice-Chair Sulton reminded the CHMC to observe and track the council consideration process and use that knowledge to further the mission of the CHMC.

Secretary Tenny added that while the CHMC understood the projected economic impacts of the art piece and council's approval of it, CHMC has mission objectives similar to those espoused by supporters of the troll: bringing economic vitality to the city and projecting art and culture in the community. He noted the parallel impact of local historic preservation ordinances or policies, such as the aforesaid survey and the Bailey Bill legislation. The latter, eased in implementation with the former, enables local governments to freeze property taxes where certified rehabilitations occur, coupling preservation and financial incentives in a way that could be broadly used by the public, for the benefit of repairing or upgrading privately-owned properties, marketing those private investment and rewarded transferable tax abatements, and, for all constituents and visitors of the city who, maintaining the unique sense of place this community.

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Following a review of the minutes from the last meeting, Vice-Chair Sulton commented the start time for the Juneteenth event needed to be corrected to 11am. Pending correction, Vice-Chair Sulton motioned to approve them. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The CHMC unanimously voted to approve the minutes, with corrections made.

Staff Report:

Mr. Thomas provided the staff report.

Mr. Thomas discussed past museum events. He thanked Dr. Chris Chriswell for his successful lecture on Catawba Pottery. He also noted the African-American Legends of Cayce event was highly successful (see below for further discussion,)

Mr. Thomas described on-going work to the Public Safety exhibit and stated that the city electrician would wait until the framing is finished, which Commissioner Stewart is accomplishing.

Mr. Thomas noted that three sections of the draft Revolutionary War 250th exhibit have been rewritten. He noted additional sections, broadening to include topics like Native Americans and refugees and doctors during and around the time of the conflict, are in development. He added that Commissioner Brinkman had developed three renderings of the exhibit, showing the room it will be housed in and the placement and scale of the exhibit features (including Commissioner Brinkman as a guest of the museum).

Mr. Thomas called attention to planting garden vegetation in honor of the late Chief A.G. Dantzler. The CHMCM discussed how it would be appropriate to plant camelias near the entrance of the fire department exhibit. Chair Hayden suggested planting could occur in January or February, when conditions are favorable for the calendar of events as well as for the plants. Vice-Chair Sulton commented that the Beautification Committee and Eric Shealy, resident and botanical gardener, should be invited to assist and Commissioner Stewart added that Johnny Dillard, the new Public Works Director for the city, should also be included.

Mr. Thomas underscored the need for conservation of an original Revolutionary War-period book that is deteriorating, in particular on some pages near its front. He stated he had contacted Carolina Conservation for the treatment. Commissioner Stewart noted that the professional conservation qualifications and credentials of the firm should be determined to ensure that the historic artifact is appropriately handled and conserved..

African-American Legends of Cayce Review:

Chair Hayden recalled the highly successful African-American Legends of Cayce (Legends of Cayce) event. Vice-Chair Sulton thanked all the commissioners for the attendance at the event, highlighting the importance of the visibility of commissioners at events and the significance of celebrating the history of the community. The event was videotaped and is available to view on YouTube.

Upcoming Events:

Mr. Thomas mentioned the upcoming Friday's Ferry marker unveiling on May 15 at 2pm. He described the need for someone to videotape the event, since the planned filmographer is unavailable.

The CHMC discussed the Colonial-era event on May 21 at 6pm at the museum. The event will include lectures on gardening, cooking, and the African-American experience.

Chris Judge, Assistant Director of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster, will present on Congaree Native Americans at a to-be-determined time on May 30 in the Cayce Historical Museum Visitor Center. At his suggestion for a Saturday lecture, the CHMC suggested a brunch-hour time for the event. The CHMC discussed providing pastries and coffee to help the event be more successful on a weekend and the commission suggested the museum stock those refreshments from a local vendor or business, in particular vendors who participate in museum events. Chair Hayden is assisting coordinate the presentation.

The CHMC discussed the upcoming Juneteenth event on June 20 at 11am. Vice-Chair Sulton described the positive impact on the reputation of Cayce in the Columbia-area African-American community. She added the event is planning for the participation of talented drummers and dancers, including those from Lee County. Commissioner Stewart stated leftover funds from the past year's Christmas event could be used to help fund the event, which Vice-Chair Sulton noted could cost \$900 for the drummers and dancers alone.

Mr. Thomas reminded CHMC Commissioners of the need for assistance with managing a visitor group of USC students on July 15, 2026 at the Cayce Historical Museum (CHM) while museum staff is also hosting a program at the Lexington County Library.

Mr. Thomas stated the Genealogy workshop is to occur on August 22 at 6pm at the CHM.

Commissioner Stewart asked if museum funds would renew at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Mr. Thomas affirmed that.

Chair Hayden stated the Native American events upcoming in the Fall would be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair Hayden continued with a request for museum staff to create a comprehensive calendar of upcoming events throughout the next year.

CHMC Discussion of Draft Revolutionary War Exhibit Text:

The CHMC discussed the draft Revolutionary War exhibit text. Mr. Thomas thanked Commissioner Brinkman and Sue Kelley for their important work and contributions in revising the draft. Mr. Thomas noted the first three sections of revisions had been provided to the CHMC for further review.

Mr. Thomas detailed how the draft exhibit text had expanded to include more on Daniel Tateman, Andrew Maxwell, and the First and Second Battles of Granby, and new sections.

Mr. Thomas added that visuals are being prepared for exhibit development and will be shared with the CHMC to better plan and provide feedback on the exhibit.

Mr. Thomas stated he had contacted Carol Poplin with HW Exhibits for information on procuring their services. He added the museum will also be applying for grants to fund the exhibits.

Chair Hayden remarked the additional information focusing on the Cayce area was positive.

Commissioner Stewart stated that the exhibit text development team should mark-up the comment matrix he provided, to track that revisions are being made consistently, appropriately, and thoroughly in response to the CHMC comments.

Mr. Thomas welcomed additional comments. He stated he could receive them individually from the CHMC commissioners via email. Mr. Stewart added that if commissioners continue to provide comments on the draft text PDF, he could compile them into a revised comment matrix for easier revision.

Sub-Committees:

Chair Hayden requested meeting dates for the established sub-committees and noted that they must send their meeting minutes to the CHMC.

Vice-Chair Sulton noted the African-American sub-committee will have its next meetings on May 18, June 16, July 18, August 18, and September 15 at 4:30pm.

Additional Items:

Vice-Chair Sulton requested current rosters and contact information for the CHMC.

Adjournment:

With no additional items on the agenda, Chair Hayden called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioners Stewart and Lawson seconded the motion. The CHMC unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at:

6:23 PM.