

National Speleological Society, Inc.
Minutes of the 262nd Regular Meeting
of the Board of Governors

Huntsville, AL
March 14, 2026
9AM CST

FINAL

COD, Josh Schultz, called the meeting to order at 9:06AM CST, March 14, 2026.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: 9:06AM Local Time

Directors

Sarah Arpin - PRESENT
Mike Backe - PRESENT
Zach Englebert (Jim Minie as Proxy) - PRESENT
Pete Johnson - PRESENT
Miki Kalber - PRESENT
Mike Mansur - PRESENT
Nina Martin – ABSENT
Rebecca McNabb - PRESENT
Dennis Melko - PRESENT
Aria Mildice - PRESENT
Anna Pearce - PRESENT
Josh Schultz - PRESENT

2. Minutes to Approve –

2.1. 02/10/25 Minutes - Updated

2.2. 06/23/25 Minutes

2.3. 08/11/25 Minutes

2.4. 10/04/25 Minutes

2.5. 12/04/25 Minutes

Schultz: moves to approve

Backe: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

3. Division Head & Board Reports

- **Executive Director (Annette Engel):** Nothing to report
- **Financial Review Committee (Rebecca McNabb):** Working on audit firm finalization
- **Nominating Committee (Anna Pearce):** Updates to director voting
- **Strategic Planning Committee (Miki Kalber):** At the end of 2025, the Strategic Planning Committee began high-level reviews/assessments of the 25/26 Operational Plans created by the Division Heads. The Committee will reconvene in May to assess any roadblocks with the new Operational Plans and to ensure we are aligned with the Strategic Plan. Note, 26/27 Operational Plans were presented to us, however the Education and Training and Facilities plans are still incomplete.
- **Bylaws Committee (Josh Schultz):** Continued bylaw updates and work on COD process
- **Financial Division (Kristine Ebrey):** Vertical tower funding progress
- **Membership Division (Carol Tideman):** IO reporting updates
- **Conservation & Science Division (Emily Davis):** Pat Kambesis as cave science department head
- **Education Division (Tim White):** NCRC financial policy update, NCRC training updates
- **Communications Division (Unfilled):** N/A
- **Facilities Division (Maureen Handler):** N/A

4. Comments from the Membership

5. Unfinished Business

NONE

6. New Business

6.1. Schultz moves to approve budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Kalber: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

6.2. Schultz moves to authorize \$55,000 of cash on hand for the demolition of Cave Avenue.

Schultz makes friendly amendment to change to: **"Schultz moves to authorize >>\$55,000<< <<\$60,000>> of cash on hand for the demolition of Cave Avenue."**

Backe: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Melko motions to amend to: **"Schultz moves to authorize <<up to>> \$60,000 of cash on hand for the demolition of Cave Avenue."**

Pearce: seconds

Backe: calls for the vote

Johnson: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote on amendment

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Backe: calls for vote on motion

Arpin: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote on motion

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Recess: until 10:00AM

7. Closed Session of the Board

Schultz moves to enter closed session at 10:14AM CST

8. Open Session - New Business con't.

Pearce: moves to enter open session at 12:32 CST

Mansur: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Report to Membership from Closed Session:

- BoG allocated funds for legal expenses
- Choice of appointed director postponed to the next BoG meeting
- BoG voted on awards packet

8.1. Schultz moves to authorize \$190,000 from the Beech Fund to fund the museum design and installation during the 2026–2027 year upon delivery of a detailed proposal budget.

Johnson motions to amend:

Schultz moves to authorize >>\$190,000 from the Beech Fund to fund the museum design and installation during the 2026–2027 year upon delivery of a detailed proposal budget.<<

Schultz moves to authorize <<a \$190,000 promissory note from the Beech Fund to fund museum costs upon Signing of a lease agreement with the as yet unnamed "NSS Cave and Natural History Museum.>>

Pearce: seconds

Backe: calls the question

Johnson: seconds

Schultz: calls voice vote

Voice Vote:

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Schultz: calls roll call vote

Roll Call Vote:

MOTION PASSES: 10 YES, 0 NO, 2 Absent

9. Adjournment

Johnson: motions to adjourn

Kalber: seconds

Schultz adjourns at 5:00 PM CST