



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 4:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

<u> </u> Blaine Johnston, President	<u> x </u> Patrick Gittings, Vice President
<u> </u> Pam Jagosh	<u> x </u> Ken Freeze
<u> x </u> Jack Keller	<u> x </u> Debra Pitts
<u> x </u> Heather Giacomo	

City staff present were Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler; Arts & Culture Seasonal Assistant Paxton Hergenroeder; and City Attorney Bill Nary.

P. Gittings called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

D. Pitts made motion to adopt agenda, seconded by J. Keller

All ayes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

- 1. Approve:** Minutes from the 4-25-24 Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

J. Keller made motion to approve minutes, seconded by K. Freeze

All ayes

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS [ACTION ITEM]

- 2. Approve:** Monthly Financial Statement

C. Schiffler stated the only invoice paid last month was the final invoice for the walking tour guides.

J. Keller made motion to approve the monthly financial statements, seconded by K. Freeze

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS

3. **Discuss:** Commissioner Continuing Education and Conferences: PastForward National Preservation Conference in Louisiana October 28-30, 2024

C. Schiffler stated the Commission's budget contains a \$1000 line item for Commissioner training and this is typically renewed each year; however, FY2025 budget has not yet been approved though it is anticipated the \$1000 training budget line item will once again be approved. The PastForward conference would fall in FY2025 and since it is out-of-state, the registration would be covered but not airfare or lodging. Commissioner Johnston would like to attend the PastForward Conference in October but this requires approval from the Commission to use the funds. Typically, in-state conferences are less and any Commissioner can request approval from the Commission to use funds for continuing education/conferences.

P. Gittings stated that since Commissioner Johnston is not present, this discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Commission Feedback

J. Keller inquired if the cost of the conference is known. *Approximately \$750 for the registration and Commissioners would need to be pay their own airfare and lodging.*

K. Freeze asked if there is a website for the PastForward conference. *Yes, just Google it and there should be an agenda and registration cost. May have a discount for early registration. We do have a membership with the organization hosting this conference so would be the member registration fee.* K. Freeze inquired if it would be out of line to provide more funding than just the cost of registration because this could be beneficial to all Commissioners but paying for just the registration and not airfare or lodging may put a burden on Commissioners. *The City is not willing to pay for out-of-state travel and hotel costs for volunteer Commissioners, but in-state would likely be less expensive so may be willing to consider covering more for in-state conferences/continuing education.*

OLD BUSINESS

4. **Recap:** May 2024 Preservation Month and Walking Tour

P. Gittings stated he was not able to attend the activities on May 18 so requested feedback from the Commissioners who did attend.

K. Freeze stated he led the 10am tour and thinks about 13 – 15 people participated. His tour went to all the points, including going in to the Tolleth House and the Pine Street School. At the school a volunteer gave a talk about what it was like to attend school in the 1950s. His tour took a break at the Post Office and after the break, gradually lost about half the tour participants so by the end only five participants remained. The 1.7 mile tour took about 2 hours and 15 minutes but it was a very slow walk. K. Freeze noted that Commissioner Johnston stayed at the table at City Hall and talked with people and passed out the walking tour brochure. K. Freeze noted that overall it was a good day.

D. Pitts stated she led a tour at 12pm for eight people of varying ages and was able to explain to the group that both a paper booklet and app were available for the walking tour. Participants suggested updating the app and not putting money in to updating a paper booklet. Her group also suggested having tours at least once a month because once a year is not enough, and suggested having more plaques both on the sidewalk and the raised plaques so people could do their own walking tours using the app. D. Pitts noted that stories about past residents and the price of construction then versus now seemed to resonate most with the group. D. Pitts suggested adding more information about the railroad and irrigation as well as facts about what was going on in Meridian around 1910 – 1913 that caused the buildings on Idaho Street to be built. The guide was very good and helpful and the participants did like the pictures. D. Pitts' group did not cross Meridian so did only about half the tour which took about an hour and this was based on the participants' time and mobility constraints. D. Pitts would like to see the Commission include Pine Street School in more of its activities because the retired teachers gave such a nice tour of this building.

Commission Feedback

P. Gittings asked for feedback on using the newly produced walking tour guides. *Very helpful; they did a great job on the guides; the Post Office was one spot for people to leave the tour if they wanted; most people weren't aware of the various architectural styles though properties are not all pure anymore (D. Pitts).* P. Gittings asked if it might be better to split the entire tour in to two shorter tours. *I was hesitant to take a big group across Meridian; the school house was great but it is not always open but the group who runs the Pine Street School are looking to open more often; tour length really depends on the participant demographics but could split the book in to two tours and gauge what interests the participants (D. Pitts).*

K. Freeze inquired if the Tolleth House was open when D. Pitts did her tour. *No, it did not appear open but she did not knock either.* K. Freeze stated having buildings open for participants to go in really makes the tour come alive so wondered how difficult it would be to have homeowners involved and agree to open their homes for tours. K. Freeze also stated weather is a factor so maybe give one or two tours in the Spring and one or two tours in the Fall to avoid summer and winter weather.

D. Pitts suggested doing a First Saturday of the Month tour so people would know a specific day and that the tour in Boise costs \$10 to attend and these are done throughout the year. *A tour of the Meridian Speedway was part of the Boise tours series so some Commissioners have gone on one of these Boise tours (P. Gittings).*

H. Giacomo stated she plans on attending one of the upcoming tours in Boise so will report back to the Commission.

REPORTS

5. Update: National Register of Historic Places Plaque Coordination for Meridian Speedway Recognition

B. Nary stated he has reached out twice to the Dairy Board Chair about location but has not received a response so will continue to follow-up on this.

6. Update: Landmarking Program Historic Research

P. Gittings stated there was a kick-off meeting for this project since the last Commission meeting so work is under way.

C. Schiffler stated the notes from the kick-off meeting are attached to the Commissioners' agenda packets. The consultant will present a draft memo on her landmarking program research at the next Commission meeting where ideally local business owners will be in attendance to provide comment on the consultant's research. Meridian Cycles has been contacted and Commissioner Johnston may reach out to another business owner who has two properties that may potentially qualify to be landmarked. After this, the memo would be finalized and then go to City Council for a presentation.

7. Update: Eggers Farmstead Development

K. Freeze stated that about 15 people met at the property to metal detect and found quite a few items which he showed to staff at the Historical Center in City Hall. Historical Center staff kept about a dozen items, including a large horseshoe probably from a draft horse, axe heads, and hammer heads. No old coins or any odd/unusual items were found but now know at least nothing of value remains at a shallow depth since ground was covered well by those in attendance.

C. Schiffler stated this development recently went to the City Council and that an MOU between the City and the developer would be drafted to disassemble the silos and store them on a location that is still to be determined.

B. Nary stated the development agreement is in the process of being executed and the final consensus was the disassembled silos would be stored at the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department Parks Shop until either a third party was found who wanted the silos which would be put back together at the City's expense or the City would put the silos back on the current property at a different location.

8. Update: SHPO Grant and Historic Preservation Plan

P. Gittings stated the Commission will be able to enter an agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and then receive the grant funds in September, after which the Commission can then enter in to a contractual agreement with the vendor and begin work on the City's Historic Preservation Plan.

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 27, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

J. Keller made motion to adjourn, seconded by K. Freeze

All ayes