

MEETING NOTES

**Subject: City of Meridian
Landmarking Project Kick-off**

Date: May 3, 2024

Attendees:

- Sheri Freemuth, J-U-B
- Patrick Gittings, Meridian HPC
- Blaine Johnston, Meridian HPC
- Brian McClure, City of Meridian
- Maria Rachal, Idaho SHPO
- Cassandra Schiffler, City of Meridian

Purpose of the Meeting: *Kick-off Project, Establish Roles & Responsibilities, Initiate Tasks*

1. Introductions

All attendees (listed above) introduced themselves.

2. Project Objectives

Sheri reviewed the following project objectives and the attendees concurred.

- ✓ Determine the scope and suitability of a local historic landmarking program
- ✓ Associated concerns and opportunities
- ✓ Possible example communities

3. Scope and Schedule

Cassandra provided the scope of work to all attendees via email in advance of the meeting. The group discussed the following phases and schedule:

- Project Management & Administration: *May - August 2024*
- Data Collection & Review: *May – June 2024 – with support from SHPO*
- Draft Memo: *June – July 2024 – should be presented to the HPC at their June meeting*
- Final Memo: *August 2024 – should be addressed to the City Council*

4. Meetings

Sheri highlighted the meetings that are projected for the duration of the scope.

- Kickoff Meeting with SHPO – May 3
- Public Meeting at HPC Meeting (Draft Memo): *Determined June HPC would be best time for this meeting, rather than the July HPC.*
- Others – *Discussed potential for additional meetings but none were specified.*

5. Technical Approach

- Review Idaho Statute (Idaho Code Sections 67-4614 – 4616)
Maria discussed the provisions of Idaho Code including 67-4612
- Examples of similar programs in other Idaho Communities/other States?

Maria provided examples from the City of Boise and the City of Ketchum (each with different approaches). Ketchum created a list of important sites that include properties that are not in the NRHP and may not be eligible. There was some discussion regarding whether this is desirable in

Meridian. Some older buildings and sites are important to Meridian residents, such as the Modern Woodman Hall building, but are not in the Register or eligible for listing.

The group discussed the information available through ICRIS. Maria shared the link and the group reviewed the legend, and other functions of the map. The sites recently surveyed by TAG appeared to be present. It was agreed that a closer look of this information would be beneficial. Brian discussed the potential for integrating with the planning department data. Maria agreed to provide a contact at SHPO to assist in accessing the file for use by the City.

- **Appropriate criteria**

Discussed the potential for designating landmarks that are on the NRHP and are determined eligible v. a list of locally important sites. For the latter, criteria would include importance to local history, building condition, importance of visual appearance (recognizable if not necessarily historically accurate).

- **Pros and Cons of Local Historic Landmarking**

Sheri suggested that the memo would present the advantages and disadvantages of a local landmarking program. It was suggested that the memo also compare and contrast the different programs, such as local landmark v. local historic district, NRHP v. local designation etc.

6. Next Steps

Cassandra to provide information to all regarding the ICRIS map discussed today.

Blaine and Pat will review ICRIS map of Meridian survey properties and consider appropriate criteria for a potential local landmark list.

Maria to provide any appropriate examples for landmarking programs in Idaho or other states. Also, any publications on the topic from NAPC?

Maria to coordinate with Brian regarding access to the ICRIS data.

Maria to calendar discussion regarding Landmarks program memo for the June 2024 HPC meeting.

Sheri to contact Brent Danielson regarding Ada County HPC interest in landmarking program.

Sheri to provide notes from this meeting to all attendees.

Sheri to press ahead with the Draft Memo.