



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Rooms A and B, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho
Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

<u> x </u> Blaine Johnston, President	<u> </u> Destinie Hart, Vice President
<u> </u> Pam Jagosh	<u> x </u> Jody Ault
<u> x </u> Jack Keller	

City staff present were Recreation Manager, Garrett White.

Note: Commissioner D. Hart attempted to join online but was unable to join the Zoom meeting due to technical difficulties.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

B. Johnston requested addition of Agenda Item #5 under Old Business to discuss student initiatives.

J. Ault made motion to adopt agenda as amended, seconded by J. Keller

All ayes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. Approve: Minutes from 1-26-23 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

J. Ault made motion to approve minutes, seconded by J. Keller

All ayes

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS [ACTION ITEM]

2. Approve: Monthly Financial Statement

B. Johnston stated he did not think anything was new on the budget.

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

All ayes

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

3. Discuss and Recommend Course of Action: Recent Donation to City of Limited Edition Signed Photographic Print of Meridian Historic Painting by Jerry Snodgrass

B. Johnston noted everyone has looked at the piece and that the first course of action would be for C. Schiffler, upon her return, to get a quote on the cost to have the piece framed and matted and the Commission could discuss approving the expenditure next month. B. Johnston stated he is not sure where the Commission wants to put the piece.

G. White suggested talking to the Library and B. Johnston agreed that placing the piece in the History Center in City Hall would be the best location until the Library moves out and then it can remain in their collection.

B. Johnston confirmed he will get a hold of the Library District to discuss concerns about historical pieces if the Library District is disbanded and asked that G. White hold on to the piece for now.

J. Ault made motion for C. Schiffler to get a price quote to have the print matted and framed and to decide at a future meeting the permanent display location; seconded by J. Keller

All ayes

Commission Feedback:

J. Ault stated talking with the Library is a good idea and agreed the first thing to do is get it matted and framed. *Biggest concern beside preservation of the piece is the petition to disband the Library District so what would happen to all the history stuff the Commission donated to them because from what B. Johnston has read the County has the right to sell/get rid of items belonging to the Library District and he doesn't want that to happen. G. White stated he has not read much about this but it's a valid concern.*

OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

4. Planning and Discussion: May 2023 Preservation Month Activities

B. Johnston spoke to the Digitizing Specialist for the Library District on what they may be able to do to assist the Commission on the evening of activities, including looping the video in City Hall Meeting Rooms A & B called "Settlers Make the Desert Bloom", which is currently on the City's website, along with images of artifacts the Library has already digitized and possibly having a Commissioner present to answer questions with other Commissioners busy doing whatever other activities are decided upon. B. Johnston also stated the Commission could consider putting out the sandwich board signs in front of historic houses in Downtown Meridian the week before scheduled activities but wondered if this requires the approval of Ada County Highway District. B. Johnston also recommended checking with the Pine Street School to see if they would be willing to do a 20 to 30-minute presentation at the school. B. Johnston inquired about the timing of the City's Unplug and Be Outside event. B. Johnston suggested having opportunities for kids to sketch historic buildings and/or do sidewalk chalk art and this could be combined with the Unplug and Be Outside activities. B. Johnston stated he is open to ideas.

G. White confirmed the City's Unplug and Be Outside Kickoff event will occur on Saturday, May 13. G. White suggested C. Schiffler work with the Special Events Coordinator, R. White, on a collaboration.

B. Johnston stated activities on May 13 could work and then also have something during the week. B. Johnston will email notes with ideas to C. Schiffler.

[*see notes submitted by President Blaine Johnston attached to minutes below](#)

5. Student Initiatives

B. Johnston combined this discussion, in-part, with Agenda Item #4. B. Johnston stated he doesn't think we want to do essays as part of a student initiative but that artwork would come in handy and might be more creative for younger kids to do. B. Johnston noted the Commission would need to figure out a way to award prizes.

Commission Feedback:

J. Ault noted maybe local businesses would want to donate something for a prize.

REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]

6. Update: Egger Farmstead (Black Cat Development) ~ Blaine Johnston, HPC President

B. Johnston spoke with David Bailey of Bailey Engineering, the design group working with the developer on that site and attended their pre-application meeting online in December. B. Johnston noted that they did not know the silo, granary and barn were eligible for listing on the National List of Historic Places nor did they understand the historical significance of the structures; however, they have expressed that they don't want the structures listed. B. Johnston stated they have some interest in possibly moving the granary to the entrance of their development and using it as entrance structure of some kind and moving the barn to a new location within the development and repurposing it for a new use, but this is all based on cost. [*see notes submitted by President Blaine Johnston attached to minutes below for more details](#)

7. Updates: Speedway Nomination to the Historic Registry and TAG Reconnaissance Survey Projects

B. Johnston stated the State Historic Preservation Office will be working on the requested updates to the nomination to meet National's guidelines, but at this time there is no update from them and he is hoping there might be an update next month.

B. Johnston stated he has no update from TAG on the Reconnaissance Survey Projects though they should be working on it, and this will be on next month's agenda as an update.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 23, 2023 ADJOURNMENT

J. Ault made motion to adjourn, seconded by J. Keller

All ayes

**Meridian Historic Preservation Commission
February Meeting Update Notes from HPC President Blaine Johnston
Updated After February Meeting**

Preservation Month Activities

I met with Kristi from the library district, and we discussed some of the opportunities available if the library would like to help HPC with a preservation month activities. We discussed using the video "Settlers Make the Desert Bloom" along with some of the digitized photos that the library has available. We can put it on a thumb drive and have it running on a loop in one of the meeting rooms. We can as a commission do:

- The Walking Tour, depending on how many people show up and the weather, this could be a long or short tour.
- Visit the Pine Street School, this could be either as part of the walking tour or by itself. We would need to check with the volunteers of the Pine Street School to make sure someone would be available for that tour.
- Place the sidewalk signs out for the week. I think that this can create some interest in downtown when we are not available.

Student Initiative

For the Unplug and Be Outside week of events, is it possible to set up sketching stations at some historic buildings for students to draw.

Can we as a possibility to do some sidewalk chalk art?

Just a few possible ideas for the student initiative.

Eggers Farmstead Update

I spoke with David Bailey with Bailey Engineering; they are working on the design development for Corey Barton. This is a follow-up to their pre-application meeting that they had with the City of Meridian in December. In their meeting with the city, I informed them that both the barn and the double silo granary were eligible for listing on the National Registry.

Bailey Engineering has talked to the owner, and they appear to be interested in keeping these buildings on site. We talked mostly about the granary, and relocating it to the entrance of the development. They also talked about repurposing the barn. They stated that the barn appears to be stable enough to make a small move to another location on the property. They don't know definitively what they are going to do, some of the decision; unfortunately comes down to cost. I did remind them that there is some grant money available to do some of this work. It is a business for them, I am glad that they are least talking to us about saving the structures.

**Blaine O. Johnston
President
Meridian Historic Preservation Commission**