



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 4:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

☒ Blaine Johnston, Chair

☐ Pam Jagosh

☒ Jack Keller

☐ Heather Giacomo

☒ Patrick Gittings, Vice Chair

☒ Ken Freeze

☒ Debra Pitts

Others present were Garrett White, Recreation Superintendent, and Rebecca Coulter standing in for Sheri Freemuth.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

P. Gittings moved to adopt minutes. J. Keller seconded.

All ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. **Approve:** Minutes from the 2-27-25 Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

K. Freeze moved to approve minutes from last meeting. J. Keller seconded.

All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

2. **Project Update:** Historic Preservation Plan ~ Sheri Freemuth, AICP, Senior Planner J-U-B Engineers, Inc

The 2014 plan is available on the website. B. Johnston said to change the background to something other than the Ada County courthouse. R. Coulter said C. Schiffler had provided some graphics they could look at. She asked if they could provide more feedback after they review the website.

3. Review and Approve: Public Outreach and Engagement Survey ~ Sheri Freemuth, AICP, Senior Planner J-U-B Engineers, Inc

R. Coulter said the commission might want to take time to look at the survey since it is multiple choice and B. Johnston said they would like to go ahead and read through the questions.

R. Coulter said knowing who is filling out the survey is helpful and that's why they have the first question because it helps gather perspective from the people who are filling out the survey. B. Johnston said no changes were needed but R. Coulter could perhaps provide an "other" option.

For question 2 R. Coulter said the reason they ask to choose three options is so they can weight responses. Commission said they liked the question and answers the way it is. R. Coulter asked if most people felt they could answer in the categories provided and they said yes.

Question 3. B. Johnston said to add the item "establish a meridian historical district(s)" and K. Freeze said that was a really good idea.

Question 4. "Downtown and other commercial areas" should be one option. Commission said other than that it was good.

Question 5. B. Johnston said he liked that question as an architect. P. Gittings asked if "a" and "f" are really in our wheelhouse. K. Freeze said it could be useful for a historic property. K. Freeze said it doesn't have to be technical, but we could provide guidelines. B. Johnston said maybe every question should have an "other" option. R. Coulter said they add option "a" and "f" because it comes up as a topic of interest on these surveys. B. Johnston said the commission could have an activity during May one year that could highlight these options or questions.

Question 6. R. Coulter said they provide quick links to these online places. B. Johnston thought maybe add an option for an architect like the "Idaho chapter of American History Architects." P. Gittings said that sounded good. K. Freeze said survey participants might be learning something by clicking on these hyperlinks. P. Gittings said "HPC" should be spelled out.

Question 7. K. Freeze suggested adding an "other" option and R. Coulter said she liked that. K. Freeze said Pine Street School might not be open but it might be good information and he liked the idea. B. Johnston asked if we should add the walking tour app as an option and K. Freeze said it was a really good idea. B. Johnston asked if Facebook and Insta should just be one line or separate. R. Coulter said she could make links for both.

Question 8. B. Johnston said the question is simple and will get responses. R. Coulter said it's a great question to gauge how people are feeling. No revisions.

Question 9. R. Coulter asked to make sure the addresses are accurate. K. Freeze said maybe change the wording from "resources" to "sites". P. Gittings asked if any of these locations are private residences and maybe we shouldn't put addresses if they are. K. Freeze said walking tour already has the addresses. R. Coulter asked if these locations are all part of the walking tour and commission said the bar, tower, and speedway are not. R. Coulter asked if she should put coordinates to water tower and B. Johnston said people will know where it is.

R. Coulter said remaining questions are open ended so people can provide any additional feedback. K. Freeze asked if participants can still submit survey without answering questions. R. Coulter said they are only required to select three on specific questions, but

she misspoke. Participants can select one, two, or three but not more on specific questions, and they are not required to answer every question on survey. R. Coulter said they can send in a novel if they would like on the open-ended responses. K. Freeze said the survey looked good and is not too long. B. Johnston asked R. Coulter if she knew how many people might respond and she said every community is different. K. Freeze asked if we had any budget or means to advertise it through Facebook to certain demographics. J. Keller said posting would be good. B. Johnston said we could use the email list to send the link out. K. Freeze said C. Schiffler and S. Houston will work on advertising survey on socials. B. Johnston asked members to share on their personal socials as well. R. Coulter said they would be drafting press releases and creating graphics for the survey when it goes live. B. Johnston said it looks good. R. Coulter said she will make revisions and send it out for one more review. Survey will be embedded onto website, and it will be up next week. B. Johnston said the sooner the better. R. Coulter said tomorrow could be the fastest it could be released. K. Freeze asked what the approval process is. B. Johnston they need to get approval from C. Schiffler and they could hopefully get it out by Monday. R. Coulter said by tomorrow there will be an updated version for the commission to review. She said there is an option for one or two press releases. First press release will be for the survey and the second will be for the walking tour. B. Johnston suggested doing two press releases but, he stated this would be more of a decision for C. Schiffler.

4. Discuss: National Historic Preservation Month Activities (May)

The walking tour is upcoming, and the B. Johnston made a note that it should say preservation "commission" and not "committee" and the time it starts is 4:30 not 4. One asked if the tour starts at 10 and she made a note to change it to "tour starts from 10-11" and then 11-1 is the open house. They also clarified the walking tour begins at City Hall.

B. Johnston said May 17 is walking tour and asked about thoughts on the sandwich boards posted around town and maybe the local business owner could take them in at night. K. Freeze said that would be great. B. Johnston is not available on the 17th, but P. Gittings is signed up to lead tour and H. Giacomo is secondary. P. Gittings asked if they wanted to coordinate the history center being open during the tour. P. Gittings said they could put out more brochures. B. Johnston said they could try to coordinate something.

OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

5. Project Updates: Eggers Farmstead Dual Silo, 2025 Historic Walking Tour Series, Addition to the Virtual Tour on Main Street Site by HullFilm, Potential National Historic Register Nomination of the Zamzows Mill

The silos have been disassembled, and the physical resources have been transported to Victory Gardens and they are planning when and what they want to do with them.

B. Johnston asked commission to review the sign up for the walking tours and check if their availability still stands.

B. Johnston asked HullFilm to wait until spring to do anything. The commission will look for another update for the website and survey.

B. Johnston reached out to Zamzows Mill and has not heard back.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS / DISCUSSION

No topics were suggested.

NEXT MEETING: April 24, 2025

Update about survey.

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

P. Gittings made a motion to adjourn. K. Freeze seconded.

All ayes.

B. Johnston made a note about Lila Hill's funeral the following day.