



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 4:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

☒ Blaine Johnston, Chair

☒ Patrick Gittings

☒ Hailey Stewart

☒ Ken Freeze, Vice Chair

☐ James Abdel-Monem

☒ Harold Wilson

☒ Heather Giacomo

*Also present were Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler and City Attorney B. Nary

B. Johnston called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

P. Gittings made a motion to adopt the agenda. K. Freeze seconded.

All ayes; motion passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. **Approve:** Minutes from the 3-26-26 Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

P. Gittings made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3-26-26 meeting. H. Stewart seconded.

All Ayes; motion passed

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

2. **Next Steps:** Downtown Meridian Reconnaissance-level Survey Complete; Districts Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

C. Schiffler stated that this project is now complete it has been ongoing since 2022 and is now closed out in ICRIS. Do we want to move forward with those districts?

B. Johnston said that he believes they should move forward with the districts.

K. Freeze stated that they should approve all districts at once.

P. Gittings asked about the process and how to move forward.

B. Johnston says the first step will probably be to send out letters to property owners stating the commission's interest in creating historical districts.

B. Johnston asked B. Nary if they needed legal approval on the letter

B. Nary said not necessarily permission but that he and C. Schiffler will certainly want to review the letter before it goes out.

B. Johnston asked C. Schiffler if they could get a list of property owners

C. Schiffler said that she can start working on a list of property owners

B. Johnston wants to have a draft letter ready by the next meeting so that they can move towards the next step of approving the letter and then sending out to property owners.

H. Wilson agreed that the commission should proceed as B. Johnston suggested.

C. Schiffler mentioned another step is that she will be working with SHIPO on a date for a meeting presentation on what does a national register nomination look like. We want to find a date that would work for HPC members as well as SHIPO.

P. Gittings agreed with K. Freeze's earlier comment about working on both districts at the same time.

C. Schiffler mentioned that SHIPO also suggested that HPC work on both districts at the same time.

B. Johnston called for a motion

H. Wilson made a motion to move forward with Downtown Districts that will include North Main and East Idaho eligible for the National Register. P. Gittings seconded.

All Ayes; motion passed

OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

3. Updates and Discussions:

Recap: Preservation Month Activities

Meridian History Panel Event

Water Tower Media Day

A-Frame Signage

Walking Tour

Upcoming: 2026 Guided Walking Tours

Updates: Elongated Coin Machine

Meridian History Panel Discussion:

Commissioner H. Wilson gave a recap on the Meridian history panel event. Nice evening where we were able to hear about the history of our city leading up to today. We have one of our panelists here at the meeting today. H. Wilson invited Neva Timmons to share her experience at the event.

N. Timmons approached the podium and stated that the event was enjoyable and that she learned a lot. It was a good crowd. She also thanked the commission for allowing her to participate in the panel event.

H. Wilson said that the event was recorded, he thanked C. Schiffler and the City staff who came to the event and recorded it. Staff will work on editing the video and the next steps will be uploading that video to a site called "Their Story" which catalogs these living history videos.

B. Johnston asked when that process would be completed.

H. Wilson answered that he is unsure when the video will be edited as they didn't give the staff a hard deadline, he did suggest to them that it would be good to have it done withing a couple of months.

H. Wilson asked C. Schiffler if she had any updates on the video edits.

C. Schiffler said that she spoke to the staff who filmed the event and they were not finished editing, so there is no solid timeline yet.

B. Johnston asked if this was something we want to do again next year.

H. Wilson answered that the big reason they did the event this year was in conjunction with America 250, but that it could be interesting to do it again and align the panel discussions with the historic district that we are talking about.

B. Johnston thinks it might be important to keep doing these events. Our City is growing and changing fast and he feels it is important to document the stories of the people that have lived here all their lives before they are gone.

H. Wilson stated that "Their Story" has a training you can do to become an interviewer. Then we can interview people one on one and upload their stories. He says that instead of planning a big event which takes a lot of time and resources it would be good if a few commissioners could be trained to do these smaller interviews and continue the project that way.

B. Johnston says that he thinks that would be worthwhile.

H. Wilson says that if anyone is interested, he can tell them how to get started on the training. It's an online training that takes about 8 hours and teaches you how to record and upload these interviews.

P. Gittings said that he really enjoyed the event and listening to N. Timmons stories about working at the Roxy Theater. One of the other panelists was his algebra teacher growing up and he enjoyed hearing from him as well. He is interested in continuing to have these types of events.

Water Tower Media Day Discussion:

B. Johnston thought it was a great event with good media coverage.

C. Schiffler wanted to give a big thanks to the City's communications specialist in the public works department. They did an amazing job putting the event together, creating the agenda and contacting the media. She was very pleased with the media coverage.

A-Frame Signage Discussion:

K. Freeze put out the A-Frame signs and picked them back up at the end of Historic Preservation Week. A few were tipped over but otherwise they all came back unharmed.

Walking Tour Discussion:

K. Freeze led a historical walking tour that was successful. He said that a highlight of the tour is always the old Pine St. school house which they were able to open. He always encourages folks to take the tour more than once because other tour guides will have different stories and insights to share.

B. Johnston will lead the next tour along with commissioner H. Stewart.

C. Schiffler asked commissioners to make a list of the walking tour sidewalk decals that need to be replaced while they are doing the tours.

B. Nary stated that the decals are probably over ten years old at this point.

C. Schiffler stated that if they need replacing, we need to do it in the hotter months so they adhere to the sidewalk better.

Elongated Coin Machine Discussion:

B. Johnston has a meeting with Mr. Everts next week to give him more updates. He will let the commission know when he has an update for them.

REPORTS

3. Project Updates: Water Tower Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

C. Schiffler said that they are still in the research stage and are confirming details. They are on track and are looking to finish in September.

5. Report: Takeaways from the 2026 Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) Training ~ *Ken Freeze, Commissioner*

K. Freeze gave a recap to the commission about the 2026 Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program. Freeze was able to attend the program and was really impressed with the presentations. He particularly liked a presentation by Abigail Chrisman called "Why Preserve". He is hoping to get a copy of this presentation and give a version of it to City Council at one of their workshops.

B. Johnston said he thinks that education on this subject is very important and thinks it would be good to share what he learned with council and the public.

K. Freeze said he had a great experience and would attend the conference again in the future.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS / DISCUSSION

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 26, 2026

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

K. Freeze made a motion to adjourn the meeting. H. Wilson seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

Meeting adjourned 5:12 pm