



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 4:30 PM

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## MINUTES

### ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

Blaine Johnston, President                       Destinie Hart, Vice President  
 Pam Jagosh     Jody Ault  
 Jack Keller

City staff present were Arts and Culture Coordinator, Cassandra Schiffler and City Attorney, Bill Nary.

B. Johnston stated there are still a couple of open Commission seats but hoping to have them filled by next month.

C. Schiffler stated the deadline for applicants to apply for Commission seats may be extended, pending approval from the Mayor's Office.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

J. Ault made motion to adopt agenda, seconded by P. Jagosh

All ayes

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. Approve: Minutes from the 12-7-22 Special Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

J. Ault made motion to approve minutes, seconded by P. Jagosh

All ayes

### APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS [ACTION ITEM]

2. Approve: Monthly Financial Statement

C. Schiffler stated the Preservation Leadership Forum membership has been added to the Commission's budget.

J. Ault made motion to approve the monthly financial statements as corrected, seconded by P. Jagosh

All ayes

### **NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]**

#### **3. 2023 Historic Preservation Commission President and Vice President Elections**

B. Johnston stated that Meridian City Code directs the Commission to hold elections at the first meeting of each calendar year and that the Commission's bylaws state the offices of this Commission shall include Commission President and Commission Vice President.

B. Johnston requested nominations for the office of President.

J. Ault nominated B. Johnston for President; seconded by P. Jagosh.

B. Johnston requested nominations for Vice President.

P. Jagosh nominated J. Ault for Vice President; seconded by B. Johnston.

All ayes

#### **4. Planning and Discussion: May 2023 Preservation Month Activities**

B. Johnston stated he has reached out to the Library District's Digital Services Librarian to set up a meeting to see what possibilities the Library District might have to help the Commission with displays and/or activities during Preservation Month, but has not heard back yet so will report back when he does.

B. Johnston noted the Commission can move forward with walking tours as an activity, though attendance is dependent on weather but increased with use of sign boards put out the week before as well as social media posts the month before that can also encourage people to view the tour from home.

B. Johnston stated he is open to any new ideas from Commissioners for Preservation month activities and would like to finalize ideas by February.

C. Schiffler stated in the past there were some student initiatives and thought Commissioner J. Ault might want to pursue something to coincide with Preservation Month.

J. Ault confirmed she will work on student initiatives though noted it is a bit late for schools.

#### Commission Feedback:

P. Jagosh inquired if there are dates. *No dates yet so will look at this in February but it is usually mid-May. C. Schiffler stated Meridian's Unplug and Be Outside Week is May 13 through May 20 so events done during this time could get more marketing.*

B. Johnston stated this is a good idea to coincide with Meridian's Unplug and Be Outside Week so for now the Commission should plan to host walking tours May 13 – May 20.

J. Ault inquired if the State has set a theme. *No, probably will come out in March and so Commission will look to see what the National and State themes are to see if theme(s) work with what the Commission wants to do.*

B. Johnston stated even if we can do something simple with the schools to get some interest that way we would be in good shape and he knows a request was received from a prior Commissioner who is now a teacher at Riverstone for student volunteer activities and believes Commissioner D. Hart has reached out and is going to talk to the class on volunteer opportunities for kids as well as when they become adults so will make sure Commissioner D. Hart follows through and gives the Commission an update when she is done.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **5. Update: Egger's Farmstead Historic Preservation Efforts**

B. Johnston stated on December 20, 2022, the developer had a pre-application meeting with the City he was invited to participate. B. Johnston stated the developer wants to turn the property into industrial/light commercial use and was not aware that the barn or double-silo granary have any historical value. B. Johnston told the developer that according to past inspections from TAG Historical Research & Consulting (TAG), these buildings are eligible for listing on the national list of historic places and that the Commission and various historic preservation entities would like to see these buildings preserved, if possible. B. Johnston stated he emailed the developer to request a meeting to discuss the buildings' preservation and the developer responded that the owner is not interested in having the buildings listed on the national registry, to which B. Johnston replied to the developer that even if the buildings are not listed on the national registry, there may be tax credits available to the owner if he decides to work on and preserve the buildings on-site and explained there could be some possible beneficial uses for the structures and maintaining the integrity of the buildings on-site. B. Johnston stated he will continue to try to meet with the developer and owner to discuss this further and will reach out to the other historic preservation entities to encourage them to reach out to the developers again. B. Johnston noted that the owner is willing to give the buildings away to whomever wants them but it will be the new owner's responsibility to move the buildings to a new location and this is not in the best interest of the structures, in B. Johnston's opinion.

## **REPORTS**

### **6. Staff Updates: Meridian Speedway Nomination, Phase II of TAG Reconnaissance Survey of North Main Street Historic Properties, HullFilm 360 Virtual Sites Addition of Egger's Farmstead**

C. Schiffler reported no change on the Speedway nomination though she has contacted the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and they stated they have had other priority projects so the request for updates to the nomination is still pending.

C. Schiffler reported that TAG and HullFilm have both been contracted by the City to move forward with individual projects. HullFilm is planning to photograph the Eggers Farmstead in April and TAG starting work on the North Main Street Survey when the weather warms a bit.

C. Schiffler noted that while not on the agenda, Brighton, a local developer, was required to pay for two interpretative signs along the Five Mile Creek Pathway which the City will own once installed. C. Schiffler showed examples of the signage along with the proposed sign content, which includes history of Meridian and two laterals and contains the Commission's logo. C. Schiffler stated the signage content is being reviewed by SHPO but Commissioners can also provide feedback to her.

Commission Feedback:

B. Johnston inquired if these sites could be added to the walking tour signage and map since there has been talk about adding irrigation information to the tour. *Yes, but would need help with verbiage and location because these two signs will be further out then current Downtown walking tour locations.*

B. Johnston requested confirmation that SHPO does not believe there is anything wrong with the Speedway nomination application, it is just wording and verbiage in the application that requires edits. *As far as we know, correct. Additional details are required due to the non-contributing structures on the property.*

P. Jagosh asked where the interpretive signs will be located. *One is at Five Mile and Creason located near Black Cat Road and one is at Rutledge and Eight Mile located near Ten Mile Road although there is still some coordination with the City about where we would like them placed. B. Nary stated he believes one sign will be at the Ten Mile Trailhead on Ten Mile across from the treatment plant and the other sign will be on Black Cat in the open space of a new subdivision called Quartet.*

B. Johnston inquired if there is an existing walking path or is the developer building one. *B. Nary believes there is an existing walking path on the southside of the creek but a piece of pathway had to be built to connect to what will be built.*

**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

C. Schiffler noted she will not be present at the next meeting so a different staff liaison will be present; also, the location only of the next Commission meeting will be changed so check the meeting agenda to confirm the meeting location.

B. Johnston inquired as to the date and time of the Commission's annual report to City Council and confirmed he will begin to prepare for this with C. Schiffler.

C. Schiffler confirmed the annual report to City Council is to be given on Tuesday, March 28 at 4:30pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

J. Ault made motion to adjourn, seconded by P. Jagosh

All ayes