



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 4:30 PM

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## MINUTES

### ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

☒ Blaine Johnston, Chair                      ☒ Patrick Gittings, Vice Chair  
☐ Pam Jagosh                                      ☒ Ken Freeze  
☐ Youth Commissioner [Vacant]              ☒ Debra Pitts  
☒ Heather Giacomo

City Staff Cassandra Schiffler (Arts and Culture Coordinator), Sarah Alford (Arts Assistant), and Bill Nary (City Attorney) were present. Barbara Bauer of TAG was also present.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

- 1. Approve:** Minutes from the 5-4-25 Special Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

B. Johnston stated that this is in approval of the minutes from 6-4-25 and not 5-4-25.

P. Gittings approved with the change and K. Freeze seconded.

#### NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

- 2. Presentation:** Elongated Coin Machine Featuring Historic Buildings ~ *Ken Freeze, Commissioner*

K. Freeze gave a presentation on why Meridian should have an elongated coin machine. The machine could have different historical location options such as the Tolleth House or The Meridian Speedway. The total cost would be around \$6,000. He suggested a good location would be the Main Library.

- See attached presentation

B. Johnston wondered if there is any power required. K. Freeze replied no, it is all manual. H. Giacomo said this is a good idea. She suggested the unBound Library might be

a better location. K. Freeze stated there is not much traffic at that location. B. Johnston directed his question to B. Nary and wondered if they would have to get approval to put it in City Hall. B. Nary replied yes. B. Johnston asked if we could charge and B. Nary said yes, but there would be a process to go through. K. Freeze and H. Giacomo agreed .50 cents would be a good price to charge for the pennies. K. Freeze suggested announcing that the first week is free and then start charging for the pennies. H. Giacomo wondered who would empty the machine. K. Freeze said he would volunteer to have that responsibility. B. Johnston asked C. Schiffler how much of the budget is left and what else we need to pay for. She responded saying she would get back to everyone.

**3. Update: SHPO Return of Meridian-North Main Street Reconnaissance-level Survey**

SHPO returned the 2023 reconnaissance survey with some questions and comments. There are several items needed to meet their requirements. There were some properties left out that SHPO felt should be included and they wanted more information on. This is mainly due to the new system they adopted and the different requirements. B. Bauer said they are happy to make the changes needed, but they are outside the budget and they also would not have time to make the edits until later. She anticipated ongoing projects to be completed in January, and TAG could address it then. B. Johnston asked how much it would cost. Barbara said it would take 40-50 hours of additional work which would be around \$2,500. She said the changes can't be made by the end of the fiscal year, September 30. B. Johnston said the timeframe should be fine. H. Giacomo wondered if the federal withdrawing of funds would affect SHPO's ability to look at this again in January. Barbara responded saying she really cannot answer the question, but SHPO has said they might have a skeleton crew and they will do everything to move forward with fewer staff members if it came to that. She said the information would still be waiting until they are fully staffed again.

**OLD BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]**

**4. Discussion: Historic Walking Tour and Public Outreach Event Recap (June 21 Tour led by Freeze, Johnston) and Upcoming Tours (July 19 Tour led by Johnston, Pitts)**

K. Freeze said the outreach went fairly well. There was no Historic Walking Tour due to the Dairy Days Parade. He was surprised that there was not more traffic at the event. Almost all the people were fifty or older. He stated there were some people that did not see that the walking tour was cancelled. He talked to about thirty people. D. Pitts said she cannot lead the walking tour in August. C. Schiffler reminded them of the option to have the boards at another event.

**5. Other Project Updates or Discussions: Addition to the Virtual Tour on Main Street Site by HullFilm, Potential National Historic Register Nomination of the Zamzows Mill, Section 106 Review Regarding an Adverse Effect to the Eightmile Lateral, Historic Preservation Plan Progress**

B. Johnston asked C. Schiffler if she had heard any updates through HullFilm. She responded, saying she would follow up with them, as she had not heard anything. B. Johnston said the Zamzows family is discussing the National Historic Register Nomination. B. Johnston stated he will have a report in July from the zoom meeting for the Section 106 Review. B. Johnston asked if there are any updates on the Historic Preservation Plan. C. Schiffler stated S. Freemuth is continuing to work on the plan and

that they are also discussing items with Planning. B. Johnston wondered if we should have Planning at a future meeting to make sure the two plans mesh. C. Schiffler said she didn't anticipate the need for Planning to attend a future meeting.

#### **REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]**

- 6. Report:** National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) CAMP Training for Historic Preservation at Payette City Hall ~ *Heather Giacomo, HPC Commissioner*

H. Giacomo attended a CAMP training with B. Johnston and said it was well attended by many professionals. She gave a summary of what they learned at the training about preserving historical sites. The next CAMP training is planned for October 2026; however, they aren't sure that will happen due to lack of funding.

#### **NEXT MEETING: July 24, 2025**

#### **ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]**

K. Freeze motioned to adjourn and P. Gittings seconded.

All ayes.

# TO PROMOTE HISTORY

## Elongated Coin Machine

With Images of Historic Buildings of Meridian

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# A History of Elongated Coins

An elongated coin (also known as a pressed penny or smashed penny) is *a coin that has been flattened or stretched* and embossed with a new design.

The first elongated coins in the United States were created at the World's Columbian Exposition, held in 1893 in Chicago. Several designs were issued to commemorate the fair, and are available in the elongated coin collecting community today. Some are worth hundreds of dollars



# The History of Elongated Coins

- ❑ **1893:** The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago is widely credited with the invention of the elongated coin.
- ❑ **Early 20th Century:**  
Elongated coins were popular at fairs and expositions in the early 20th Century, particularly between 1893 and 1916.
- ❑ **Mid-20th Century:**  
There was a decline in popularity from 1916 to 1932, but they regained momentum afterward, with a steady increase in production and popularity.
- ❑ **Modern Era:**  
Today, elongated coins are still produced at tourist attractions, theme parks, and other locations and are a popular souvenir.





# Elongated Coins Today

Today, elongated coin machines can be found just about everywhere.

## Disneyland



## Las Vegas



## Every National Park and Monument



# Not A Coin Collector?

A few years back, the National Elongated Coin Club conducted a survey of its members.

*Just over 75 percent didn't consider themselves to be coin collectors.*

Elongated coins seem to appeal to people because they are inexpensive souvenirs of a visit, a local landmark, or an event.





# **My Proposal:**

## **Meridian buys a machine to help promote Meridian's History**

**The machine would come with dies to press four different historical sites in Meridian.**

**Some Examples might be:**

- **The Zamzow Elevator**
- **Bank of Meridian**
- **Mountain States Telephone Building**
- **Meridian Rural High School**
- **Modern Woodmen American Hall**
- **Pine Street School**
- **The Neal House**
- **The Anderson House**
- **The Compton House**
- **Hedges House**
- **The Clara Hill House**
- **Tolleth House**



# My Proposal:

The dies could be changed from time to time, so that over time, many different locations in Meridian would be recognized.



# Meridian Historic Preservation Plan:

**Helps to promote these aspects of the plan**

## Goal 1.2

Develop a Meridian Register of Historic Places to **recognize sites of local significance**.

## Goal 3.1

Continue to provide public programs to **increase citizens' awareness of Meridian's heritage** and the economic and aesthetic value of historic preservation.





# The Costs:

Cost of the machine:

\$5,497 plus \$497 shipping plus \$185 Lift Gate

(Includes custom artwork, die, and engraving for four images. Their art department will create custom designs from our reference ideas.)

Total \$6,179

New dies are \$250 each.

Cost to get a coin elongated? Free .25¢ to \$1



# **Source of Funds:**

- **Use Current Commission Funding**
- **Ask a Local Company or Organization for a Donation**
- **Could ask the City Council for Funding**
- **Use Remediation Funds (Army Corps/Canal)**



# Promotion:

Through the Meridian website and Facebook Page

Free listing on  
PennyCollector.com

Perhaps a new release  
as well

PennyCollector.com				
Find Out How To Get A Penny Machine For Your Location				
Home   Store   Locations   Search   History   Tips   Links   FAQ   Trading Tool   Trading Tool Login				
Idaho Machine Locations				
Report a Location				
Location <small>[Legend]</small>	City	Designs	Images	Updated
Bass Pro Shops (was Cabela's) 3693 South 25th East	Ammon	4p		05/23/25
Unknown Location	Arco	Gone		06/01/23
Robert Limbert Visitors Center 1266 Craters Loop Road	Arco, Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve	4p 1t		06/28/23
Silverwood Theme Park 27843 North Highway 95	Athol	16p		09/05/22
Idaho Potato Museum 130 Northwest Main Street	Blackfoot	4p		04/11/25
Aquarium of Boise (Was Idaho Aquarium) 64 North Cole Road	Boise	4p		05/26/23
Cabela's 8109 West Franklin Road	Boise	Gone		03/16/23
Discovery Center of Idaho 131 Myrtle Street	Boise	Gone		12/09/19
Goody's Soda Fountain 1502 N 13th Street	Boise	4p		08/17/24
Idaho State Museum 610 Julia Davis Drive	Boise	4p		05/26/23
Morrison Knudsen Nature Center 600 South Walnut	Boise	3p		05/26/23
Pojo's Family Fun Center 7736 West Fairview Avenue	Boise	2p 1t		07/26/22
Zoo Boise 355 Julia Davis Drive	Boise	4m		05/11/25



# Future of the Penny:

The penny is to be discontinued!

Yes – but there is an estimated  
10-year supply already in  
circulation

This machine can be converted  
to take nickels or dimes.



# Location of the Machine:

I believe the best place for the machine would be at the Main Library on Cherry Street.

It would be indoors, with lots of foot traffic, and it would be supervised.

However, the main library will undergo remodeling this fall, so it could be relocated to one of the other branches or City Hall.





# Will it Make Money?

I believe the income will be modest at best.

My hope would be that the machine would make enough over time to pay for new dies.





# Are there any Questions:

