HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
City Hall – Ron Edinger Conference Room
12:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Walter Burns, Chair
Anneliese Miller, Vice Chair
Doug Harro
Rick Shaffer
Brian Smith
Shannon Sardell (On Teams)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hilary Patterson, Community Planning Director
Traci Clark, Administrative Assistant

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON:

Kiki Miller, Council Liaison (On Teams)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dan McCracken
Stephen Shepperd
Danielle Rhodes
Sandy Emerson, *Emeritus*

12:00 P.M CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burns at 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Shaffer, to approve August 26, 2026 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Patterson made the following statements:

- Chairman Burns, Commissioners Sardell and Smith are all up for re-appointment in November. If you are still interested in staying on the commission, let us know. We will still need to advertise to allow others to apply for the commission.
- The Liberty Bell, as part of the America 250 celebration, is making a tour of Idaho. It is her understanding that all of the states received a Liberty Bell years ago. The State of Idaho's bell has been restored, and it is touring the state of Idaho, and it will be in Coeur d'Alene on October 27 from 4:00 to 6:00. This will be held at the Veterans Plaza in McEuen Park.
- We have closed out our two Certified Local Government grants. We had the Downtown Survey and the CAMP Training. Those have both closed out and we have been reimbursed.
- A photo book that will be placed in the time capsule is being routed around for your review and those that served on the America 250 committee are signing the book. All commissioners have already signed the other document that will go in the time capsule that will be opened in 100 years.

DRAFT

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Shafter asked if anybody knew if the Washington D.C. tree that's being plucked out of Payette National Park would come this way.

Commissioner Sardell stated the tree will come from the Nez Perce National Forest. There are 250 additional trees being logged from that forest and will be sent as Christmas trees as well. There are decorations being planned and sent to decorate these trees from Idaho schoolchildren from schools around the state. She doesn't know which schools are going to be involved. She thinks the tree will go down the side of Lolo and head straight into Montana.

Chairman Burns commented there is a printout today on the Barclay house that is in Sanders Beach on Lakeshore Drive. The house still looks pretty much like the original home. The homeowners had a private celebration recently. Sandy Emerson was talking at our last sub-committee meeting about the possibility of having an opportunity for our commission to tour the home in the future. It is an important building and something we need to look at as a future National Register or local Register building because it is significant. At the last meeting, he mentioned the Arts and History Foundation that is being put together. At this point, that effort is on hold. He has been speaking with Don Pischner who brought up the fact that he knows where the original bell from Roosevelt School is. He has been talking with Mr. Pischner and with Steve Widmyer, who's the owner of the school. Mr. Pischner gave him the phone number of the gentleman that owns the bell. He is going to give him a call. Both Mr. Widmyer and Pischner attended Roosevelt School and were able to ring the bell (as children). Also, Mr. Widmyer read an article a couple of months ago about the John Mullen statue that is over by the Fourth of July Pass. It needs some restoration. Mr. Widmyer is interested in seeing if he can maybe bring that back to Coeur d'Alene and restore it. He thought that maybe this could be something this commission could get involved with.

Commissioner Harro asked if this the stature that used to be on Sherman and 7th in Coeur d'Alene.

Chairman Burns replied yes that it's moved around over the years and now it's up in the woods up off I-90 and it is not very accessible. It's a question of whether that's something that the community would want to do and whether we could get some fundraising for it. Widmyer envisioned it being at the museum.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Inland Empire Electric Substation (HREI building) Brick-and-Mortar Rehabilitation

Commissioner Sardell stated an engineer from Lewiston, Idaho of Keltic Engineering, Eric Hasenoehrl, came up and looked at the building last Wednesday. He spent about 2.5 hours going over it and discussing how to tie back the west wall. He brought with him a mason who has had done masonry mostly in the Lewiston area on historic buildings. He had some recommendations on what could be done as part of the rehabilitation work. She has concerns about the recommendations, but she's still trying to confirm that with a couple of other colleagues. There may be a reason to shift the rehabilitation work to the stone foundation on the west side of the building. While we were there, the city crew ran the sprinkler systems that we've been told previously that the sprinklers are not touching the building. In fact, the building is getting directly sprayed by those sprinklers. Adam (Korytko) from the City of Coeur d'Alene is working to get those sprinklers turned off, so that we're not washing the rest of the mortar out of the joints on that west side of the building. That was great to be able to have that aha moment and run the sprinklers while we were there and understand that component of it. She can help request an extension from the Idaho Heritage Trust for specifying the contractor. We have three years to finish the project. She wants to make sure we're doing it right, and we have the right people in place for it, and that we're getting the most bang for our buck.

Local Districts and Historic Overlay – Government Way Corridor

Ms. Patterson stated she needs to meet with City Attorney Randy Adams to start framing out what the historic overlay would look like and figure out the process for creating a local historic district. We know what we want to do to allow for that. We know the Government Way corridor group is interested in moving forward with a local district and a historic overlay. We have also talked about potentially creating a local historic district for the downtown. Commissioner Smith did attend the Government Way corridor neighborhood meeting. She said two items that were going to be discussed were off street parking for ADUs and the possibility of green space.

Mr. Smith commented there the meeting was more of a brainstorming session for them than anything else. They had 11 or 12 homes represented at their meeting. He suggested that a meeting with the City's Planning Department would probably go a long way to answering their questions.

Chairman Burns suggested inviting the Government Way corridor neighborhood representatives to the next sub-committee meeting.

Ms. Patterson commented that the Planning Department has a couple of things that are more time sensitive because legislation requires the City to fix the ADU code and have starter home subdivision code language by the February 1 deadline.

Chairman Burns stated there's a wide number of things that need to be pinned down for the Government Way corridor. Number one, what are the regulations going to be, and what are they going to be looking for? Number two, what is the process for neighborhood outreach? Then there's the whole structural part of it. This is going to be a big project. He wants to make sure we move forward with it because it's been something we've been talking about for a long time and he wants to make sure those folks feel like we're paying attention to them.

Commissioner Smith stated they did ask how the Garden District did it. They want to meet with the Garden District committee people to sort of model their approach the same way.

Chairman Burns stated that would largely be him. There is a Garden District board and he's on it, and he was involved with the effort that started with the County Historic Preservation Commission and then finished with the City's Historic Preservation Commission. He has been involved in all the steps. He would be happy to talk to them about that. The Garden District was a National Register nomination. That's not what we're talking about here. The Garden District does not have any design guidelines or limitations. There's nothing in the code that determines what can and cannot be done in the Garden District beyond what's in this citywide code. He believes there needs to be some kind of survey of the Government Way corridor neighborhood.

Commissioner Sardell replied that the commission would need to do some sort of survey to understand neighborhood characteristics and what are specific features that would make it eligible for a historic district.

Commissioner Miller asked if we should apply for another grant.

Ms. Patterson suggested a survey of the neighborhood could be pursued as part of the CLG grant this December.

Commissioner Sardell responded and said the surveying inventory for a specific boundary of that neighborhood could be done by a consultant with a CLG grant. They would do it at the level of National Register evaluation, like the survey we did for Downtown. The commission could discuss which character-defining features warrant preservation or significance for a local district, rather than a National historic district. We could have different qualifications, but we must start somewhere. She said if we don't have another project ready for CLG grant cycle, then this would probably be a good one.

Commissioner Smith stated they discussed the boundary at the meeting. They want to be able to extend

two streets on either side of Government Way eventually.

Commissioner Sardell stated we could create a boundary that would be the priority, including the corridor to the alley. For the CLG grant, we will need to have a map and estimated number of properties to be surveyed.

Chairman Burns commented he has concerns that if we start talking about doing a CLG grant for a survey and we're also looking at creating a Local District and Overlay that this may confuse the people in the neighborhood. That was a concern that we had with the Garden District that we didn't want to introduce any other projects when we were talking about the National Register district.

Commissioner Sardell stated this wouldn't be for National Register, though. We're just looking at a survey and inventory of the neighborhood.

Ms. Patterson stated we are required to do a survey to create a local district.

Chairman Burns stated that makes sense and we could pursue the CLG grant to survey the larger area, even if we decide to go with the Overlay or the Local District.

Commissioner Sardell stated the commission has to start somewhere by knowing what we have, and that needs to be based on whatever budget we can muster or put together for a survey, and then we can take those qualities and work on the local district. The survey just gives us the information. She checked the SHPO website, and it hasn't officially posted a fiscal year for 2027 for the grants yet. It looks like the plan for the grant closing is January 31, 2027.

Chairman Burns stated it might behoove us to get it in earlier than in case they change their minds.

Ms. Patterson stated it might be helpful, as Commissioner Smith suggested, to invite the neighborhood representatives to attend the sub-committee meeting. She will reach out to them to see if they are available. She can speak about the planning and zoning side of it, and then commissioner Sardell can speak to the survey part of it, and then anyone else who wants to be there.

Downtown Signage Program

Ms. Patterson stated we have been awarded another $2,500 from the Idaho State Historical Society. We can move forward with expanding the signage program starting on October 1. We will have a cash match from the City for a total of $5,000. We also have $1,275 from money that was reimbursed to us.

Chairman Burns stated he met with Steve Widmyer to give him his plaque for the Roosevelt. He was very excited about the signage program. Chairman Burns explained how we want to expand the program, but we have limited funds. He asked Mr. Widmyer what he thought about asking Downtown businesses about paying some of the funds. He said he could help us with that. So that would be very good if we could get that going. And of course, Commissioner Smith volunteered to go door to door.

Commissioner Smith stated he would be willing to go to the Downtown businesses and ask if they would like to be involved in the signage program, if they would they like to put a plaque on their building, and would they like to help fund it.

North Idaho Film Festival – potential panel to discuss historical house preservation documentary

Chairman Burns stated there will be a film showing on Thursday and Saturday about a house that was demolished in Rancho Mirage and how it created a big stir. It really got people focused on historic preservation and what is lost when a building gets torn down. They've asked us to participate in that. The show on Thursday will be at 4:30. After the film, commissioner Sardell and he will moderate a Q and A about historic preservation. He asked if any commissioners would like to moderate with him for the

Saturday showing. Commissioner Smith volunteered to assist.

Outreach/Media

Chairman Burns stated it's great that we have a reporter here to help spread the word about the signage program and write some articles.

POSSIBLE CHANGE OF HPC/SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES **ACTION ITEM**

The commission discussed changing the meeting day/time to get better attendance. Motion made by Commissioner Shaffer to change the dates of the HPC meeting to 1st Thursday of the Month at 1:00 in November and changed the Subcommittee dates to the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion carried.

City Council Liaison Kiki Miller commented there is a Governor's letter that the city was going to take a position on regarding proposed changes to Section 106. The Mayor asked if I wanted to have it on the agenda or just read it at announcements, but she felt it was important to share with the public. The Mayor's assistant is drafting the letter. Liaison Miller would like Chairman Burns to look at it.

Chairman Burns replied he will review the letter with Ms. Patterson and Commissioner Sardell.

Commissioner Shaffer commented he would be happy to help Commissioner Smith walk the Downtown business district regarding the signage program.

Tracking Time:

Chairman Burns reminded the commission to track their time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Shaffer, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Submitted by Traci Clark, Administrative Assistant

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