



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION for Wash. Co. & City of Weiser

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

Time: 4:05 PM

Location: Washington County Court House Commissioner's
Chambers in Weiser, Idaho

County HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Brenda Aldrich, Thel Pearson, Alan Pickett (absent)

City HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Lynda Lance, Josh Dalton (absent), Cheri Clausen (absent)

Members of the public in attendance: Nina Hawkins, Julie Chandler. Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Tony Edmondson.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 16th, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Lynda moved to approve the minutes, and Dennis moved to second. Motion carried.

Report Items:

Weiser Middle School Gymnasium National Register application status: Nothing new to report at this time, but we will begin working on it in the fall, when the Grant period opens.

Midvale Historic Preservation Report: Alan was absent, but Thel and Nina shared that the Old Merc building is being sold again. It has been suggested that it would be a good candidate for National Register Status. It is listed on ICRIS as having been surveyed and eligible.

Cambridge Historic Preservation Report: Thel reported that they are getting organized and ready to begin holding regular Historic Preservation Meetings. They had lost a few members and have had to do some reorganizing. The County Fair was held this last weekend in Cambridge and so it has been busy. Idaho Power has printed their local tour brochures in the past and is no longer doing that with everything being done online these days. But Brenda and McKenzie have stepped forward to help with this project.

Weiser Historic Preservation Report: Cheri was absent and not able to update us on the Weiser Preservation Plan. It is moving rather slowly right now. People that have been contacted to respond to certain concerns haven't gotten back to them yet. No one has visited the City Website to peruse the City of Weiser Historic Preservation Plan. It is hard to find on the city website.

Realtor's Contact West 3rd/424 West Main -Ashley: 408-834-3862: Tony shared that he has had two contacts over the last couple weeks about historic properties that are for sale. Questions have been raised by the children of the original owners as to whether there are any conditions or stipulations to purchasing an historic property. Somerset house on 3rd & Idaho was one property discussed. The question was asked if Tony knew when it was built. They have a buyer and they are curious about any restriction about building a garage, landscaping and the gardens, or replacing windows.

Tony explained that we don't have an Historic District, so there are no restrictions. We just hope that a new owner will make wise choices (ie...plastic windows...🙄)

The other property discussed was a house on West Main and 4th Street -424 West Main – which is also for sale.

Realtors really would like to know this information. There was a meeting a week ago in Payette and it would have been great to have know and to have been able to make a presentation about this information. We need to be reaching out about this

information. Are there any volunteers who would like to take this project on? Nina said that she had heard there was a tax write-off for people who owned historical properties. Lynda shared that this only applies to commercial properties.

Thel said that they hadn't heard a lot from realtors. Brenda asked how often the realtors meet together. We could put a paper together with information on an Historic Properties Wish List – Dos and Don'ts

Other:

- Brenda shared that she met a guy doing a survey on the Unity Bridge. The Gas Company has been working out there because they have a gas line that goes under the river. Dave B. wondered if we've heard anything about a start date. Hopefully they will publish that information with a timeline when they are ready to begin.
- The Sunnyside School Grant cycle has a September closing date. We need to have all of our final paperwork completed and sent in by that time. We have 220 hours combined at \$26.11 per hr = \$5,744.20 in volunteer time/\$\$\$

Action Items:

Unity Bridge Mitigation Decision: The mitigated value of the Unity Bridge is \$105,000.00 which we had originally been told that we would have to share with Tim Wrightman to get the portion of the bridge that he has requested moved. However, under the Governor's Leading Idaho Bridge Project, they have come up with a formula that will apply to Unity Bridge and all of the future bridge projects in the state. Right now, we have been told we have a choice. Either to continue as we had been told to share the \$105,000.00 with \$55,000.00 to Washington County Historic Preservation Commission and \$50,000 to Tim Wrightman...

Or...

Under this new plan:

10% - to Preservation Idaho Administration

20% - allocated to bridges/business pertaining to the bridges

70% -available to all state GLC's to apply for grant projects

They have a formula for how they will prioritize this allocation – if the bridge is in our area, our request would go to the head of the line, but we are able to apply for the bridge mitigation funding anytime. Some counties don't have Preservation Commissions so no one in that area might apply for these mitigation dollars. This new 70% fund will not be available until January of 2026. Other agencies can also apply for this funding. However, projects like Tim Wrightman's would come out of the 20% column allotted to Bridge related projects.

Lynda said that she preferred the 10%-20%-70% funding choice. Julie, Brenda, Dennis, and Thel all agreed.

Brenda moved that we go with the grant process of the 10%-20%-70% funding for Unity Bridge. Dennis seconded the motion. Carried.

Tony shared that he has looked into the possibility of getting a piece of the Cove Bridge for the fishing pond or Mortimer's Island. He learned that the bridge will actually belong to the contractor. We would have to contact the city to see if they would be on board to proceed with this idea.

County Historic Preservation Plan goals and objectives review: Copies of these pages of our County HPP were passed to the board members for discussion and a progress check.

- Looking at page 36... #1 Coordinate with relevant Tribal interests... We were reminded that we had tried to reach out to the leaders of the various tribal groups in our area 3 years ago when we first worked on this plan with no success. Dennis shared that he remembered hearing that there were not many of them left in the county. Some have moved back. Tony added that years ago, when the Union Pacific was going to be doing some work on their lines, they had to reach out to check on the impact it might have. Thel shared that there was a tribe years ago and there seemed to still be a lot of tribal

members in the area. Brenda asked if we would need to reach out again? Tony said that he would try to hunt down the phone numbers, if someone would be willing to make the calls. Even if we don't get a response, we will know that we tried.

- Page 36 – item #2 – discussion on how we chose Sunnyside School for the National Register Nomination. Are there any other schools, barns, structures we should consider? Brenda suggested the Thorson's Barn on the Lloyd Roberts' place. Tony added that these old barns are one of the greatest "at risk" structures in our county. Thel shared that they had been asked by ITD years ago and it just recently was brought up again from Brenda to do signs on Highway 70 of Historical Marker type.
- Tony has questioned SHPO about National Register listing that we haven't been able to find. SHPO realized that several of the buildings listed on the National Register are no longer there. They've got IT working on it. Tony also tried checking on ICRIS, but felt he needed a tutelage session to navigate the website. He contacted SHPO and asked if it were possible to get a workshop set up to help learn the system. If there is any interest in this group, let Tony know.
- Page 37-still item #2- Sunnyside School's National Register Nomination is complete. Thel shared that Enterprise School would be a good candidate. It has had some work done on it, but is in good condition. * Ray Laan's barn has had a lot of change and remodel work done. The Ford House- Brenda said they've done some remodeling. Tony said that if 3 walls are pretty close to the original, it's eligible. Midvale Grain Elevator – damaged and part is coming down

Walker House and Werneth Building follow-up: The Walker home is in pretty bad condition. Julie shared that Jon Walker is the son of Bonnie and Robert Walker. She can get his number and ask if the family would mind if someone went onto the property to photograph the building. Do we know any history of the property.

Other: Dennis shared that he suggested to Cheri that we need to get some good photos of the Cove Bridge before we've lost it. He doesn't know if she's done anything along that line yet.

Meeting Adjourned about 5:11 p.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025** at the Washington County Court House. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Chandler, Secretary