



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

Wednesday, May 7th , 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

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

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

City HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Lynda Lance, Cheri Clausen

Members of the public in attendance: Margie Chipman (City Council Representative), Julie Chandler. Secretary

The meeting was called to order.

Minutes: The minutes from April 7th, 2025, needed to be approved at this meeting. Dennis moved to approve the minutes and Lynda moved to second. Motion carried.

Report Items:/

Weiser HHP public survey results We are about half to three fourths of the way through this process. The public in attendance at the Open House held at the depot on April 17th, divided up into three key areas to brainstorm goals and objectives. The next meeting will be with Natasha, the city clerk, Tony, and Sheri Freemuth to discuss the next step. They are hopeful to have it finished by early July. The expense will be covered by the mitigation from the Dixie Creek Bridge.

Preservation Camp Training in Payette June 14th: This upcoming training sponsored by NAPC is scheduled for June 14th. Several have already shown interest in attending the camp. On Saturday, from 10 to 4.

Weiser Middle School Gymnasium NR Nomination application CLG Grant : This building is a Tourtellotte and Hummel design. Weiser has the largest number of commissions by that firm in Idaho outside of Boise. The gym is amazingly intact for its age. It will be on the agenda for the next 2 years to discuss the progress.

Sunnyside School NR Grant Report: The building was added to the NR earlier this year and Tony just has to submit the final paperwork to close out the grant. We have had to put our money up front. WAPC Funds the project, and now we are ready to be reimbursed.

Tony made a point to Margie that she is welcome to kick in on any of the items in the agenda.

Walter Johnson inquiry: Our minutes are posted on the County Website and as a result, a call came in from the County asking if we would return a query to a Gentleman who had contacted them about Walter Johnson. Alan shared that Walter Johnson wrote letters to one of the local newspapers about his first year on the team, kinda telling Weiser what it was like to play in DC on The Senators. It was really interesting reading. He even wrote about the local club teams. It was very interesting to read his letters. He signed the contract at the butcher shop on butcher paper. They took him out back so he could throw. He was famous for his fast pitch. Walter Johnson insisted that the contract include the stipulation that if this didn't work out, they'd pay his way back to Weiser. We think the house he lived in was on West Park. It is a very interesting chapter of Weiser's history.

Demolition by neglect-endangered list: Dan Everhart spoke on this at the last meeting. He suggested that if we have a demolition order, it is just a short time period delay. Tony asked Dan Loos about if they had a Demolition Permit for Joyce Strong's office on Commercial and East 7th? Dave said yes, and added that single story buildings don't even need a permit to demolish. Now Bonnie

Walker's house on East 6th across from the cottages appears to be set for demolition. Dennis has been doing some research on Tourtellotte & Hummell buildings in Weiser and is concerned that the Werneth Building which is one of them, is empty and could be in danger.

Do we need to come up with a list of endangered buildings in our County? Cheri added that we could, but it would really surprise us the buildings that may be listed. Then maybe we could approach local government for a heads up, if a building is due to be demolished or moved. Maybe just time to do a Recon Survey or document that the property was there. Originally, we had done 100's of Recon Surveys. The Library Copy is now at the Depot. The SRHC still has their copy.

Thel shared that 20 to 25 years ago, Cambridge surveyed most of the properties in the Cambridge Area. They have lost several in the last while, and haven't done any new ones. The Hotel is under condemnation. The building down by the gas station was moved, and they were able to get it documented.

So, Tony asked...What is our next step? Dennis said we just need to develop our list of properties. Then go to work on surveying any we don't presently have. Cheri shared that Dan shared in the April meeting to check other communities that have established an endangered list. Brenda offered to call around for examples from other Cities/counties. Margie said that if we came up with an endangered list, she would be glad to take it to the City Council. So, what would the process be once we establish a list? What would our criteria be?

Action Items:

Review Reconnaissance Level Survey: As part of our Cove bridge mitigation settlement our commission came up with a list of about 100 sites/properties to be surveyed in the county at large, with emphasis on Ag use. The TAG consultants contracted for this work, took our list and surveyed many. The end of the report shows each property with its eligibility for National Register Status. All these surveys have been uploaded to ICRIS. There are actually a couple thousand properties that have been surveyed over the years. The Site includes a map of the County with sites that have been surveyed and when that was done. We can visit the site to look at this information.

Meeting Schedule: Cheri brought up our meeting schedule and how often we need to meet. With so much going on, we really need to meet more often. There is just too much on our agenda. Rather than meeting quarterly as hoped, all agreed to go back to monthly meetings until further notice.

Thel shared that they are planning a meeting on May 9th to work on reorganizing the Cambridge CLG and try to get some younger participants. Many currently on their commission have served for over 40 years and are becoming aged. We need to get some younger citizens involved. There is a big movement/interest to do something about Salubria. Lots of new folks are moving into that area. It serves as a kind of Visitors' Center. Tony shared that they drove up to Hells Canyon recently and there were so many new buildings up there. Dennis shared that they noticed the telephone office is listed for sale. It's a pretty substation building.

Other: The property on Main Street slated for the County Prosecutor's office was in the paper again. Since the Mayors ultimatum, several weeks ago, no response from the County Commissioners has been documented. Perhaps this will have to be settled in court.

Meeting Adjourned about 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 4th**, 2025 at the Washington County Court House. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Chandler, Secretary