



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

Wednesday, September 3rd , 2025

Time: 4:00 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

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

Members of the public in attendance: Margie Chipman (City Council Representative) Dave Bean, Nina Hawkins, Alex Jones -JUB (zoom) Julie Chandler. Secretary

The meeting was called to order by.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 6th, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Dennis moved to approve the minutes and Alan moved to second. Motion carried.

Action Item:

Approve Weiser Historic Preservation Plan edits and vote to approve final draft: Alex Jones, JUB Engineers, joined us on Zoom. He has been working with the City HHP group on the plan. It was put on the web to go out to get feedback from selected members of the public and no one responded. Dennis and Tony reviewed and commented on the draft. Alex said he has included the corrections and can get an updated copy to us prior to the City Council meeting.

Dennis moved that we recommend the City of Weiser Historic Preservation Plan to the City Council for approval. Brenda seconded the motion. Carried. Margie asked Alex if he would have a corrected copy and send it to Tony and Natasha prior to the City Council Meeting.

Report Items:

Weiser Middle School Gymnasium National Register application status: The grant has been approved. We are now just waiting to hear that the money is available. The consultant to do the survey work has been approached and is waiting for the approval to move forward.

Midvale rep report: Alan shared that the Church of Christ is celebrating it's 100th year. The original building built in 1905 burned and it was rebuilt in 1925. It was the first actual church in Midvale. In 1881, the church actually came into the area. It was incorporated in 1893. Pastor Kevin Hooper had contacted Tony about National Register Eligibility. The building has had additions built onto all 4 sides making it ineligible. Some original photos would be good to have. The question was asked if there had ever been a Reconnaissance level survey completed on it. Alan will look on ICRIS and see if he can find out. Alan said he has had basic approval for ICRIS, but is still working to get full approval. He said that he believed it was on ICRIS and had been Reconnaissance survey.

Cambridge rep report: Thel reported the Cambridge CLG are still working on the County wide graveyard survey. Not sure what we're planning to do with it when we finish. They got the closing of the museum coming up. It happens around Labor Day each year. With no heat in the building, it can't be open to the public in the winter months.

There are lots of new folks coming into the area with lots of questions. The house that was moved out of town in pieces is now put back together again. They have a new group of people that are showing some interest in the City Historic Preservation Commission.

Tony shared that he was contacted the end of last week by the Idaho Humanities Council about the Sister Alfrada Award. It is an award that comes with about \$10,000.00. It was created about 15 years ago. The Humanities Council and the Historic Society sponsor the award together. The idea is to present the Cambridge Museum for this award next year. It would be real nice recognition and the monetary award would be most useful.

Thel also shared that a large mural is being painted on the side of the Old Medical Building labeled the Upper County Clinic.

Cove Bridge photos: Tony reached out to SHPO in response to the request at last month's HPC meeting and received an email that the photos should be available on ICRIS. Alan will take a look

Unity Bridge Mitigation decision approved: Last meeting we voted on the 10/20/70% plan. Tony reported that he had contacted Ashley and LTAC and both got back to him on approval. It is a little confusing, but looks like the funding will be available in January 2026. There is about \$300,000.00 in the grant bank right now. We can apply for grant monies in 2026 whether it is our bridge being removed or not.

Dave said that the money decision sounds good. Do we have a timeline for the replacement of the Unity Bridge yet? In a farming community, it will be very inconvenient while the bridge is down. Some advance warning would be great.

Tony said that with this amount of money available, it would be great to have a few projects in mind and as soon as the grant forms are available, we need to be ready to submit our proposals. Dennis asked if there were any limits to how much and where the projects were? Tony shared- not to his knowledge. Alan asked if there was a project in Midvale, would it be eligible? Yes.

Dave asked if Tim Wrightman had been updated about the new mitigation plan? Tony shared that he had been CC on the emails he has sent and received. Dave added that to his knowledge the 2nd span of the Unity Bridge is still available.

We need to come with ideas to our October meeting of possible grant proposals for this mitigation funding.

Sunnyside School Roof Damage: Tony shared that he had been asked by a school district representative if there was any money available to help with the replacement of the Sunnyside School Roof. They ended up getting the whole roof replaced for under \$10,000.00 which was split between the Weiser School District and the preschool that is operating there. The question was asked if the

cupola had been left on the roof. It has.



CEG for Eaton Depot Interpretive sign approved: Tony reported that the roof sign for Eaton Depot is ready to be put on. Hopefully in the next two weeks, we can get that done. Dave shared that we had received a CEG Grant a couple years ago and used it for the interpretive signage in the Weiser Depot. Last year we applied for a follow up grant to finish that project, but it was not approved. Now we have applied for the interpretive sign grant for Eaton Depot and it was approved. We received the paperwork on September 2nd, signed it and sent it back which started the clock. We have until May to have the project completed. We don't think they are a CLG or government match eligible...it is a 50/50 split, so we have to come up with our share of the grant.



Idaho Heritage Trust grant cycle – People's Furniture siding removal: The Trust is funded by the Idaho License plates money. Weiser and Cambridge have received a few grants from them in the past. We need to remember that the Idaho Heritage Trust grants are out there. The grant application is due the end of September. Last year Dan and Jason from SHPO came out and did a drive/walk survey through downtown Weiser. They believe there is potential for a National Register District. All the buildings inside the district would be eligible for a tax break. Dan mentioned People's Furniture would give the district eligibility potential a major boost if enough original fabric remained and was curious what the original building under the tin covering looked like.

Idaho Heritage Trust said that they would support a grant help determine that potential and/or help restore that building to its original state, if it is in good condition. Sally at People's is very on board to remove the tin, but the money has been an issue for

them. They are very willing to move forward, if the grant monies could be procured. Tony said he'll see if he can arrange a meeting between the different agencies and property owner to explore this opportunity further.

Realtor Handouts: Continuing a discussion from our last meeting, it would be a very good idea to prepare a "You Own An Historic Building- Here's Some Ideas to Help You Protect It". This would be a good project to put a committee together to work on and very useful for area Realtors.

Rebecca Rail Siding: Dave shared that there have been some questions and he's not sure where they are coming from about the Rebecca Stop on the old PIN Railroad. It seems to be Tim Wrightman that is trying to locate it. Dave said that he has a government survey map from 1894 and the name Rebecca does show up on the map. It doesn't appear to be on Tim's property, however.

Walker House Reconnaissance Report: The Robert Walker house is in danger of demolition. Tony went out to take some photos. He reported that he was very impressed with the foundation and the stained-glass windows. It is a modest house. He questioned whether or not it could be moved and restored.

Action Items:

Werneth Building follow up: After a conversation with Seth Matthew, we learned the building has been sold on a lease/purchase agreement to Janicek. He owns the onion storage behind the Rose Advocates building. Dennis shared that it is the first Tourtellotte and Hummel structure to be built in Weiser. It is such a unique building to look at. Curious as to what they plan to do with the building. We need to actively engage the new owner to ensure historic fabric is not lost or compromised.

County Website: Tony shared that he forwards our HPC meeting agendas and minutes to Kim in the Sheriff's office once they have been approved. She then posts them on the county website. He will ask the city to do similarly.

Other: Dennis shared that he found an article on the Northern Shoshoni in this area. Chief Eagle Eye was buried somewhere in this area. It's a big secret.

Dave added that the Shoshoni were kept off the reservation by finding them work on the area farms.

Lynda said that the kiosk at the Depot on the east is totally deteriorating. That sign listing all the accomplishments of the city through the years was created either by the Chamber or another civic organization and originally located on the east side of State Street near the alley between Main and Court. It was removed and relocated to the depot some years back. Tony will reach out to Natasha at the city to learn if they, the Chamber, or another organization wants to restore the sign.

Tony reminded the members to come to the October meeting with ideas to submit grants for the Unity Bridge mitigation money. Don't know what the paperwork will look like, but...we'll see.

Dennis said they will be spraying bugs on September 9th.

Meeting Adjourned at about 5:11 p.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday**, October 8th, 2025, at the Washington County Court House. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Chandler, Secretary