

Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting #126

Date: 09-10-2026

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Lake Lowell Parks Office, 12996 Iowa Ave, Nampa, ID 83686

Commission Members: George DeFord, Jr (Attorney), Nikki Gorrell (Anthropologist), Bruce Poe (Architect), Vicki Stark (Archaeologist), Justin Vance (Historian), Zachary Wesley (Attorney), Chelsee Boehm (Canyon County Staff Rep.)

Commission Members in Attendance:

- George DeFord, Jr.
- Nikki Gorrell (*virtual, partial attendance*)
- Bruce Poe (*virtual*)
- Vicki Stark (*virtual*)
- Justin Vance
- Zach Wesley (*virtual, partial attendance*)
- Chelsee Boehm

Other Attendees:

- Nicki Schwend, Director
- Jay Erb, American Legion Post 18
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Call to Order

- o Meeting began at 6:33pm

Welcome and Introductions

ACTION: George **motions** to move the item “Review & approve comments to DSD concerning application AD2023-0118” to earlier in the meeting to accommodate Commissioners that need to leave early. **Nikki seconded.**

AYES: George, Nikki, Bruce, Vicki, Chelsee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion passes.

ACTION: Approve Minutes – Meeting #125, August 13, 2024

- o No edits suggested for meeting minutes. **Bruce moves to adopt the minutes as submitted. George seconded.**

AYES: George, Nikki, Bruce, Vicki, Chelsee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion passes.

ACTION: Review & approve comments to DSD concerning application AD2023-0118

- Chelsea summarized the application and what the property owner hopes to do with their parcels. A brief discussion followed on some of the context of the HPC's comments and general concerns regarding development in the area as it relates to the disturbance of archaeological and historical resources.
 - Zach arrived to the meeting during this discussion (*exact time not recorded*)
 - **Nikki motioned to approve** the comments as drafted to submit to DSD concerning the application for the land division. **Bruce seconded.**
 - George voiced his support for the comments, but raised hesitations and opposition in regards to the development of the parcels.
 - Bruce agreed. He told the group that while the division of the parcels may occur upon approval of this application, further development of the new parcels will require future applications to DSD and another opportunity to make comments.
 - Vicki mentioned that other members of Tribal communities may likely share concerns about the development of the property, and the wider area.
- AYES:** George, Nikki, Bruce, Vicki, Chelsea
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Zach
Motion passes.

Mitigation Updates

- Section 106 report for WIF Grant project
 - Nicki Schwend introduced the boat ramp project at Celebration Park. A waterways improvement fund (WIF) grant from State Parks is funding work on the boat ramp. The US Army Corps of Engineers reached out to Canyon County Parks about the project as ICRIS [State Historic Preservation Office program for tracking historical/archaeological resources in state] shows a site in the project area, but Nicki pointed out that the polygon for that archaeological site is in the wrong area. Nicki summarized conversations with State Historic Preservation Office and US Army Corps of Engineers to site survey in-house, instead of contracting. Survey was completed and nothing was found on the site, as it is a highly disturbed area (between work, camping, erosion). Nicki working through the mitigation process right now. The plus side is that we are updating ICRIS records.
 - Nikki asked about upcoming field school at Celebration Park. Nicki Schwend explained the field school that Boise State is experimenting with new style of field school, part of it is observing at the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) and the other part is excavating at Celebration Park on Fridays. Nikki asked to be updated on the schedule to see if she can bring her anthropology club out to observe.

- Zach Wesley left meeting at 6:52pm. Nikki Gorrell left meeting at 6:55pm.

New Business

- Review of FY2024 grant statuses
 - Melba Valley Historical Society submitted completion report.
 - Historical Society of Middleton and the Nampa Arts and Historic Preservation Commission applied for extensions.
 - No word from Caldwell Historical Society.
 - Chelsee summarized complications with the Notus grant, including ongoing discussion between the City of Notus and the Notus Historical Society and Museum regarding use of a city-owned building. Chelsee asked the group if it is best to encourage Notus Historical Society to ask for an extension or to return funds. Discussion followed on best solution. Chelsee and Nicki will talk to Zach about the County's authority in this situation and how to proceed.
- **ACTION:** DSD Land Division Application (*moved to earlier in meeting*)
- DSD Member
 - Chelsee and Nicki introduced potential of adding a non-voting member to the HPC from DSD to provide insight on planning and current building projects in the county. The group acknowledges the value of having this viewpoint.

Old Business

- Project Updates
 - Snake River Canyon Preservation Assessment
 - Service agreement with Historical Research Associates, Inc. has been signed.
- Bylaws and leadership positions
 - Chelsee has drafted amended bylaws and distributed them to George and Zach for review.
 - Chelsee reminded the group that Chair and Co-Chair positions need to be filled, and asked members to think about if they might want to serve. Chelsee asked the group if it would be inappropriate for her to serve, given her position with the county, and decided it would be best to check with Zach on this. Bruce asked if Chelsee could give him information on how long he served on the Commission. Chelsee said she would find out and report back to him.

Public Comment

- Idaho Archeological Society Conference
 - Nicki told everyone that the Idaho Archaeological Society will be holding their annual conference on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at the Boise State University Student Union Building. Nicki will be delivering the keynote address and invited everyone to attend.

Adjourn

- **George motions** to adjourn the meeting. **Vicki seconds.**
AYES: George, Bruce, Vicki, Chelsee

NOES: None

Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.