

Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting #140

Date: 04-07-2026 **Time:** 6:30 pm

Location: Canyon County Administration Building (111 N. 11th Ave, Suite 130, Caldwell)

Commission Members: George DeFord, Jr (Attorney), Nikki Gorrell (Anthropologist), Dr. Rachel Miller (Historian), Bruce Poe (Architect), Zachary Wesley (Attorney), Chelsee Boehm (Canyon County Staff Rep.)

Commission Members in Attendance:

- George DeFord, Jr.
- Nikki Gorrell
- Rachel Miller (*virtual*)
- Bruce Poe (*virtual*)
- Zach Wesley (*virtual*)
- Chelsee Boehm

Other Attendees:

- Nicki Schwend, Director, Canyon County Parks
- Mike Farrell, Assistant Director
- Alan Hochhalter, Canyon County Historical Society
- Jay Erb, American Legion, Nampa
- Cody Carlson (*virtual*), prospective HPC member
- Mari Harris, prospective HPC member
- Mark Pemble

Call to Order

- Meeting began at 6:30pm

Welcome and Introductions

- Chelsee welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes

- Meeting #139, March 3, 2026. **Rachel motions to approve the minutes. Chelsee seconds.**

AYES: Rachel, Bruce, Chelsee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: George

Motion passes.

New Business

- **ACTION: Approve new Historic Preservation Commission members, recommend them to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment**
 - Chelsee moves to approve Mari Harris and Dr. Cody Carlson as new members to the Historic Preservation Commission, and recommend them to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment
- AYES:** Rachel, Bruce, Zach, Chelsee, George

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
Motion passes.

- Discussion followed on next steps for appointment. Bruce shared his opinion on how to expand membership, suggested adding someone from the private sector with development/planning experience and an architectural historian. Everyone agreed this is a good idea. Group will work on reaching out to contacts to see if we can locate someone who is interested in serving.
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) updates
 - Chelsee shared with the group that per new state legislation, SHPO will be removed from the Idaho State Historical Society and placed into a newly created state department called The Office of Species, Minerals, and Energy Coordination. Discussion followed on what impact this will have on the HPC's work and what it means for preservation in the state.

Old Business

- Mitigation Updates
 - Gateway West
 - Chelsee gave a brief background on the project. Parks staff are working on attending meetings and reviewing documents sent by the Bureau of Land Management. Parks staff will provide periodic updates as they are available.
 - Tuscan Ridge
 - Chelsee gave a quick background on the project. It is another Section 106 mitigation. As it is in the Caldwell area of impact, the Caldwell HPC is going to receive \$10,000 for mitigation.
- Grant Updates
 - FY26 CLG Grant – NRHP Nomination
 - Chelsee shared that Canyon County received the \$10,000 grant to write a nomination for a privately owned farmstead. Once agreement is signed with SHPO, Parks staff will find a contractor.
 - HPC Grants
 - So far, Parks staff have received two applications for the 2027 fiscal year. Applicants have until April 30 to submit.
 - Alan, from the Canyon County Historical Society, shared that he expected a grant application would come from their organization.
 - Jay, from the American Legion, has two applications with Chelsee for her review. Jay gave an update on the FY2026 grant that the Legion received for a historic structures report. The Chateau building has had a 3D scan completed, and there are upcoming visits to assess various systems in the building.
 - Historic Properties Mitigation Bank (HPMB) Grant

- Parks staff are going to apply for an HPMB grant from Preservation Idaho to have a report done on the Guffey Bridge at Celebration Park. The report will evaluate the current condition of the bridge and include proposals for future improvements to the timber walkway.

Public Comments

- Nicki Schwend shared that there will be an Archaeology Month event at Celebration Park. This year, the Canyon County Parks annual event will be combined with that of the Idaho Archaeological Society. Nicki summarized what attendees could expect at the event.
- Mark Pemble shared that he has been working with a graduate researcher from the University of Idaho to study how folks interact with historic preservation.
- Bruce summarized the ongoing issues with the Union Block in Boise.

Adjourn

- **George motions to end the meeting, Bruce seconds.**
AYES: George, Rachel, Zach, Bruce, Chelsee
NOES: None
Motion passes.
Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.