

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF HAYDEN, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Commission Meeting: 11:00 AM
Hayden City Hall Council Chambers, 8930 N. Government Way, Hayden, ID 83835

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Chair Eichelberger.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner Barbara Bennett: Present
Vice-Chair Bill Brizee: Present
Commissioner Rhonda Budvarson: Present
Chair Judy Eichelberger: Present
Commissioner Ransom Storm: Absent at time of roll call

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Eichelberger.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

CONSENT CALENDAR *All items on the Consent Calendar are Action Items*

Edits to be made to Meeting Minutes from 03-12-26 per Chair Eichelberger: Add last names to "Scott" and "Peter" first names which are referenced on the minutes. Scott's last name is Forsell, and Peter's last name is Hamilton. With those changes noted, Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026 was made.

This motion, made by Commissioner Budvarson and seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Motion Carried.

Barbara Bennett:	Yes
Bill Brizee:	Yes
Rhonda Budvarson:	Yes
Judy Eichelberger:	Yes
Ransom Storm:	Absent
Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent: 1	

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT on Non-Agenda Items (5-minutes maximum): N/A

Commissioner Storm showed up for the meeting at 11:09 AM

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner Barbara Bennett: Present
Vice-Chair Bill Brizee: Present
Commissioner Rhonda Budvarson: Present
Chair Judy Eichelberger: Present
Commissioner Ransom Storm: Present

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives book order and upcoming book signing events. Chair Eichelberger updated everyone on the status of the book supply currently and expressed need for more books as they are currently sold out. Commissioner Bennett confirmed that she will get the Super 1 funds (from the books) over to the Finance Dept. today. Discussion ensued about the need to order more books, and it was decided that 100 more books should be ordered. Verbal approval from Director Donna Phillips was received to place this book order.

Ms. Phillips explained the budget for the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the year, which is \$3,500 and went on to explain the cost of creating the book, and the revenue received from the books has surpassed the cost to make them. Vice-Chair Brizee asked where the \$3,500 came from for the budget, to which Ms. Phillips said that it was the estimated cost from a few years ago that they estimated it would cost for the first publication of the book, plus an additional dollar amount toward their various subscriptions, and a little amount for training purposes. She noted that other commissions do not get a lot of money, and the HPC has one of the largest budgets compared to other commissions in the City of Hayden. The Arts Commission was mentioned and explained that they get funds from a “variety of different pots”. Ms. Phillips has requested that the HPC budget remains at the \$3,500 amount to allow for the book reprints.

Vice-Chair Brizee brought up the HPC Awards and the cost of making those frames/the glass or plexy glass cost to be considered as a “budget item.”

Chair Eichelberger mentioned a “nice donation” that was made to the HPC of \$700 and asked if that was included in the \$3,500 that Ms. Phillips had referred to earlier to which she replied it was not included, and it’s in a different line item.

Discussion continued; Ancestry.com was mentioned and the “trees” that the HPC has.

Next, Chair Eichelberger provided an example of a potential marketing opportunity for the book, noting that *Hayden Lake Neighbors* magazine could serve as an effective promotional outlet. Although the magazine is expected to transition to new ownership within the next few months, it would likely be receptive to a 500-word advertisement for the HPC book. The *North Idaho Explorer* website was also mentioned as another possible platform for promotion.

She also mentioned that on May 21st, 2026, she will be going down to North Idaho College along with Commissioner Bennett to deliver a donated book to the college library. She then stated that extra HPC books should start to be taken to libraries and schools. Vice Chair Brizee asked if they had received permission to display a book at The North Idaho Museum yet? To which Chair Eichelberger said that she had called their contact over there (“Brit”), and she has not received an answer back yet. She took a copy of the book down, and “had to leave it” because their contact person “Brit” was not there. Cost of the book was discussed.

Update on Ordinary People Extraordinary Lives: Volume 2

Commissioner Bennett provided an update on the second book, noting that she has five histories remaining to complete. She also shared that she recently contacted a relative of Stoddard Park and sent a draft for review; the relative responded, saying that she “loved it.” Discussion ensued about the controversial history of the Stoddard family, and Director Phillips advised the commission that once a final draft of the book is ready, it should be given to the City’s Legal Dept. to read over before publication.

Commissioner Bennett also mentioned that “Buckles” would be her last one (in the 2nd book), and that she has been working on that one for five years. Ms. Phillips asked if they had done a biography on “the Harms Family”? Fran and Doug Harms? Commissioner Bennett asked if Doug has any relation to Ernest Harms, to which Ms. Phillips said she didn’t know, but she could ask. Harms family history was discussed, and Commissioner Bennett said she remembers starting a file on Earnest Harms.

Update on Hayden Preservation Awards

Chair Eichelberger said that the cut-off date for submissions is April, 27th and inquired about being outside city limits, to which Ms. Phillips replied that anybody can nominate a building, and then the Commission will determine if the nomination is inside or outside of City limits during the May 14th meeting. She went on to say that the Commission can draft a letter which can be sent out to the property owners of the nominees to see if they would like to participate in the Awards or not.

Vice Chair Brizee showed the frames that were made from the Stoddard Barn wood for the Award certificates to go in. Four frames have been made so far. The Commission went on to discuss the plaques for the front of the frames, and the design choices for that. They mentioned the layout of the plaque, and different design options. The Commission needs to decide what saying will need to go on the plaque, and the design of the plaque. Design options were emailed to the Commission by the Planning Assistant, Sadie Roe, for approval previously. There have been two submittals for the Awards so far. Vice-Chair Brizee listed different businesses that he has visited, urging them to apply for the Award.

He requested that the Facebook post with the deadlines for the Awards be re-posted on the City of Hayden Facebook page by Abbi, City Clerk.

The May 14th regular HPC meeting was cancelled & re-scheduled. Dates to review the Awards submittals were discussed. Chair Eichelberger said she was glad that they are getting some response (to the HHPC Awards) and asked what was their best avenue of letting people know about them? To which Vice-Chair Brizee said that word of mouth seemed to be working the best. He also mentioned Facebook posts, and re-posting. They went on to discuss the submittal process, and how some applicants had expressed that it was “difficult for them to get to” (on the website).

Update on Hayden Canyon Charter School Story Telling Event

Chair Eichelberger updated the commissioners and let them know that the event is postponed or canceled for this year. They mentioned that the concept of this event is very great, as the school wants their students to be involved in storytelling, and listen to story tellers. She went on to mention speaking with her previous students that she knows (that are grown adults now) and asked about doing some storytelling/taking on a character for this event. She mentioned the state song/singing the state song.

Ms. Phillips mentioned Hayden Canyon Charter School possibly doing this event around the end of September or first part of October. She listed some of the hardships that the Hayden Charter School has gone through in the last year and went on to say that they are not affiliated with any other school districts in the area, they are affiliated with the Idaho state board charter school systems. The school has a very hands-on type of learning style. She went on to discuss the school’s schedule, and some “growing pains” that they are having this year. She mentioned that the City of Hayden will be working with the school for Arbor Day this year, and that “learning by doing” is a large part of the school’s way of teaching.

Assistance for persons with disabilities will be provided, upon provision of verbal or written notice to city staff 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The phone number for City Hall is (208) 772-4411.

Update on Funding Sources/Grants
This item is tabled until the next regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

REPORTS

Chair Eichelberger went on to talk about an "office building on Government Way" that she and Vice Chair Brizee looked at and took pictures of. The building is abandoned and is what they would consider an "attractive nuisance" and a potential hazard. The Commission does not think it has any historical value; it is due for demolition.

Director Phillips then walked over to the podium and pulled up photos on the projector screen for the HPC to review. She asked about duplicate photos, and whether all the photos need to be saved. Vice Chair Brizee will look through these photos and decide what can be kept, and what can be deleted.

Ms. Phillips also reported that the Idaho Legislature approved the move of the State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) current location to a new location. "In the budget world" their discussion identified that SHPO's budget is not funded by the state, it is funded by federal dollars. No correspondence has been received from SHPO to let the commission know what the impact of that move will be, but that goes into effect July 1st.

Chair Eichelberger mentioned that Commissioner Ransom is working on the "Thunberg house" newspaper photos and cleaning those up for the second Ordinary People Extraordinary Lives book.

Next, the Commission discussed the Arbor Day Event which is coming up on May 13th at 8:30 am. They will be collaborating with Hayden Canyon Charter School, and Chair Eichelberger mentioned the students taking some ownership and making a script or something for when they are talking to younger students about Idaho history. She is hoping they will "jump right in" and help with the event. Leaders and student training for the booths is on May 6th. There are 28 booths so far.

The discussion continued about tree "cookies", and healthy trees.

Vice-Chair Brizee asked if there are any other events coming up in the future that require a booth, to which Chair Eichelberger said "Hayden Days." He went on to say that he has an idea for creating boards for Hayden Days showcasing different buildings with a question saying, "which building do you think tells the story of Hayden?" Another idea he had was to use a computer with a large monitor and have Google Earth pulled up where people can pull up different addresses in Hayden in street view. This topic was noted as something to discuss during the next regular HPC meeting, along with creating a board to engage the public asking the question: what are some historic locations to showcase (within the City of Hayden) and why? Commissioner Budvarson asked if Commissioner Bennett could get a copy of the families listed in book 2 (of the Ordinary People Extraordinary Lives book).

ADJOURNMENT ACTION ITEM

Motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was made by Vice-Chair Brizee and seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Motion carried.

Barbara Bennett: Yes

Bill Brizee: Yes

Rhonda Budvarson: Yes

Judy Eichelberger: Yes

Ransom Storm: Yes

Yes: 5, No: 0, Absent: 0