



Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

June 2025 Minutes

*June 17, 2025 meeting at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501
Meeting called to Order by President Buscher at 12:02pm CSDT.*

In Attendance

Commission Members: President Kelli Buscher, Treasurer Donna Leslie, Secretary Robert Kean, Alan Haarstad, Patti Duffy, Shirley Swanson, Ted Spencer

Guests: Douglas Schomer, Pierre, SD

Meeting working documents were referred to and reviewed in preparation for Commission Discussion

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded.

Volunteer Hours: June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025 = 406.5

Approval of Minutes

The May 20, 2025 Commission Minutes were reviewed and adjusted as follows: noting the approval of a \$60.00 rental payment to the Pierre Senior Center and correction of a misspelling. There being no further additions or corrections offered, Shirley Swanson moved, Alan Haarstad seconded, that the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission (PFPHPC) May 20, 2025 Minutes be approved as amended. MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Revised Financial Planning Document dated June 16, 2025 made available to the Commission prior to the meeting and further accompanying informational materials including updates relating to invoices received, those submitted for payment and those paid. Treasurer Leslie also provided a detailed review of the Final Report dated May 31, 2025 on the recently expired SD State Historical Society grant, noting that the \$46.22 of unexpended funds remaining at the end of the grant period were reverted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for reallocation. Treasurer Leslie further noted all outstanding invoices relating to the expired grant have been paid. Commission Members further extensively discussed its role since no further funding is currently available or anticipated from its, to date, primary federal and passthrough sources and unobligated resources held by the Commission are limited to approximately \$10,000. Commission Members by consensus agreed to continue its role in the community, for example: to conduct the annual inspections of the Verendrye Monument/Ft. Pierre Chouteau; to seek bids to complete a new Ft. Pierre Chouteau sign; and, to actively develop new projects such as the role of steamboats in the development of the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities.

Old Business: SHPO Grant Update

Nothing new to report regarding future federal funding.

Brad Tennant/Tales on the River/July 10, 2025

Commission Member Kean reported on publicity being developed to advertise Mr. Tennant's Tales on the River presentation about the fur trade in the upper Missouri River area prior to the Arikara Wars of 1843. The presentation, open to the public at no charge, will begin at 7pm CSDT on July 10 at the Moose Lodge in Ft. Pierre. A light dinner is available at 6pm.

Booklet Printing Update

The invoice for the printing of the agreed upon Commission booklets has been paid. President Buscher will contact the printer to check on the status of the work. When done the booklets will be moved to the Commission's storage area at the Pierre City Hall.

'Fort Pierre Trader Days' Booth – August 8-9, 2025

The Trader Days event will provide an opportunity for the Commission to distribute its booklets and share information about the role and activities of the Commission in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities. Participating Commission Members will man the Commission's booth on Saturday, August 9th.

Ft. Pierre Chouteau Sign Update

Commission Member Kean updated the Commission on the effort to replace the sign for the Ft. Pierre Chouteau site that is located on Fort Chouteau Road in Ft. Pierre. This effort is designed to correct a misspelling and make the information more visible. After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that the effort should continue to be developed. Commission Member Kean will contact the sign developer for design suggestions and report back to the Commission.

Verendrye Monument/Ft. Pierre Chouteau Inspection June 23, 2025

The Commission agreed to continue the annual summer inspections of the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau. Participating Commission Members will meet with representatives from the City of Ft. Pierre and SHPO at the Verendrye Monument at 4pm CSDT on June 23 to begin the inspection. Commission Member Kean noted he was contacted by Brett Fergen regarding damage to an informational sign at the Verendrye Monument. The left bottom corner of the sign was broken off. Commission Member Kean will contact M&R Signs regarding cost of repair or replacement.

New Business: PFPHPC Website Update

Commission Members discussed the layout of the PFPHPC webpage and how to best present information of historical interest. It was agreed the webpage would benefit from a review to avoid confusion. Members further suggested the history of the governor's residences would make an interesting booklet. President Buscher offered to check the website to make sure the Commission's publications posted there are up to date.

Turtle Effigy Maintenance

Commission Members discussed its involvement in the maintenance of the Turtle Effigy located north of Pierre near Highway 1804. Over the years, the Commission joined the property owner in periodically mowing the site. Commission Member Kean will visit the site and report its condition at the July meeting.

Attributing PFPHPC Website Photos

Commission Member Leslie discussed requests received by PFPHPC for permission to use materials on its webpage. She contacted the Commission's website maintenance support for ideas. It was suggested that the webpage contain a note directing persons seeking permission to use materials to the SD State Historical Society. This information was added to the webpage at no cost to the Commission.

Other Business:

Mr. Schomer suggested the sign on the Liberty Bell in front of the Soldiers and Sailors World War Memorial Building on Capitol Avenue across the street from the Capitol could use a cleaning. During the following discussion, it was suggested the state Bureau of Administration would be the appropriate entity to contact since the sign is located within its Capitol Complex maintenance area.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm CSDT.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

July 15, 2025 at 12pm noon at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501.

PIERRE – FT. PIERRE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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