



Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

April 2026 Minutes

April 21, 2026, meeting at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501
Meeting called to Order by President Buscher at 12:05pm.

In Attendance

Commission Members: Kelli Buscher, President; Robert Kean, Secretary; Alan Haarstad, Larry Eliason, Patti Duffy, Ted Spencer

COMMISSION MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION: None noted

Guests: Jozef Lamfers, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mr. Lamfers updated the Commission on ongoing efforts to address the ADA compliance issues involving the concrete pathway at the Verendrye Monument site in Ft. Pierre. The SHPO efforts include discussions with the state engineer’s office to design a comprehensive plan for a long-term solution to fully address the settling, separating and shifting concrete and providing irrigation for the site. While the dialogue is ongoing, work orders to begin the repairs are anticipated to be issued soon. Further Commission discussion reviewed the feasibility of connecting the Verendrye site with other walking trails in the vicinity. At one time, a walking trail existed from near the corner of Verendrye Drive and West Second Street in Ft. Pierre to the Verendrye site. It was noted that creating, expanding or connecting a walking trail was beyond the scope of the current effort and usually a city initiates a grant request to develop or expand a walking trail.

Meeting working documents were referred to and reviewed including materials relating to sign replacement, current booklet inventory, copies of Commission created booklets to consider re-publishing, additional financial information and accompanying notes.

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded.

Volunteer Hours: SHPO Grant Year: September 22, 2025 – March 16, 2026 = 194.75
Calendar Year: January 1, 2026 – March 16, 2026 = 89.75

Approval of Minutes

The March 16, 2026, Commission Minutes were reviewed and there being no further additions or corrections, Larry Eliason moved, Patti Duffy seconded, that the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission (PFPHPC) March 16, 2026, Minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated April 17, 2026, provided to the Commission prior to the meeting and accompanying materials consisting of informational notes and updates. In Treasurer Donna Leslie's scheduled absence, President Buscher updated the Commission regarding the following items: the previously awarded SHPO grant to conduct the Pierre Historic Hill District review and update was revised to be applied to address the ADA pathway compliance issues at the Verendrye Monument site; the current SHPO grant cycle will end July 31, 2026; the SD State Historical Society membership statement was received and paid; the city of Ft. Pierre submitted an invoice to the Commission for \$8,000 to cover the annual cost for maintenance of the Ft. Pierre Chouteau and Verendrye Monument sites that will require approval; and, funds balances.

MOTION: Ted Spencer moved, Alan Haarstad seconded, that Treasurer Donna Leslie is authorized to expend \$8,000.00 from Budget Category #450 to pay the 2026 annual contract invoice to the City of Fort Pierre for maintenance of the Ft. Pierre Chouteau and Verendrye Monument sites.

MOTION PASSED

Motion to Modify Agenda

Commission Member Kean addressed the vandalism of an informative sign at the Verendrye Monument site and requested the agenda be modified to add "Verendrye Sign Vandalism" to the Other Agenda section of the agenda and include discussion regarding the vandalism with that of Andy's Meat Market Sign under Old Business.

MOTION: Alan Haarstad moved, Patti Duffy seconded, that the agenda be modified to add Verendrye Sign Vandalism to the Other Agenda section and include ensuing discussion with Andy's Meat Market Sign in the agenda.

MOTION PASSED

Old Business: Grant Application

President Buscher reported the PFPHPC 2027 Grant was submitted and is awaiting further action by the SHPO Office.

Talking Trails

Information continues to be collected, and this item will be placed on the agenda when completed.

Andy's Meat Market Sign

Andy's Meat Market Sign:

Commission Member Kean shared information on bids sought to replace the vandalized Andy's Meat Market Sign located at the northeast corner of East Main and Deadwood Street in Ft. Pierre. Commission discussion included how best to replace a sign subject to frequent vandalism.

MOTION: Larry Eliason moved, Ted Spencer seconded that \$200.00 be expended from Budget Category #423 to accept the bid from M&R Signs to replace the Andy's Meat Market sign.

MOTION PASSED

Verendrye Monument Sign:

Commission Member Kean shared information about the vandalism of an informational sign located at the Verendrye Monument site. The sign, attached with four bolts to the anchored signpost was pried off and removed. The sign was not found after searching the surrounding area. The signpost was not damaged, and a new sign can be attached to the post using the same bolts.

MOTION: Patti Duffy moved, Alan Haarstad seconded, that \$250.00 be expended from Budget Category #423 to accept the bid from M&R Signs to replace the Verendrye Monument sign.

MOTION PASSED

New Business: State History Conference/CLG Conference

SD State History Conference will be held at the Drifters Conference Center in Ft. Pierre, SD on June 1-3, 2026. The Commission has earmarked funds for three of its members to attend.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Conference will be held May 29, 2026, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, SD. There is no cost to attend but attendees are asked to register to assist with refreshment estimates.

PFPHPC Booklets Reprinting/New Publications

Commission Member Duffy updated the Commission on the status of the Cedar Hill Cemetery booklet. The booklet is described as "nearly done" and it is expected the Commission will be able to begin printing during the current fiscal year. Duffy also reported continuing progress with the updating of the Ft. Pierre historic homes booklet.

PFPHPC Website Changes/Updates

Commission Members discussed areas of the Commission's website benefiting from review and freshening up. Members are to bring suggestions to the next meeting for further review and decision making.

Lindbergh Visit Anniversary

Commission Member Spencer updated the Commission on efforts to date in developing a display to be placed in the Pierre airport building portraying the rich history of the Pierre airport and aviation in the community. Anticipated highlighted items of interest include the role of the airport as a WWII pilot training base, expansion of private aviation and commercial air travel and a visit by Lindbergh to the community in 1924.

Steamboat Artifact

Commission Member Kean updated the Commission of a call he received from Mayor Hanson about a contact she had with a local contractor who may have recovered an artifact associated with the riverboat/steamboat history in the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities. Kean will contact the contractor to gather more information on the artifact and investigate local historic preservation entities having an interest in local riverboat/steamboat history.

Other Business:

Verendrye Sign Vandalism (please see Old Business above)

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 12pm noon CSDT at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501.

PIERRE – FT. PIERRE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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