



Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission
January 2026 Minutes

*January 20, 2026, meeting at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501
Meeting called to Order by President Buscher at 12:06pm.*

In Attendance

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

COMMISSION MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION: None noted.

Guests: No guests attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Meeting working documents were referred to and reviewed including current Booklet Inventory, additional financial information and accompanying notes.

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded.

Volunteer Hours: SHPO Grant Year: September 22, 2025 – December 31, 2025 = 105
Calendar Year: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 = 473.5

Approval of Minutes

The December 16, 2025, Commission Minutes were reviewed and there being no further additions or corrections, Ted Spencer moved, Alan Haarstad seconded, that the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission (PFPHPC) December 16, 2025, Minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Treasurer Leslie reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document dated January 16, 2026, and accompanying materials provided to the Commission prior to the meeting. The discussion points included: a detailed update on the current invoice payment system process and notifications of completed payments; recently paid invoices covering the Ft. Pierre Chouteau sign, reprinting of three booklets (Pierre-Ft. Pierre Driving Tour, Pierre Historic Homes, Schuler - Lewis & Clark); and, the revised budget reporting format to make the actual unallocated/undesignated amounts clearer. Treasurer Leslie noted the Commission’s annual website hosting and maintenance fees can be paid.

MOTION: Alan Haarstad moved, Patti Duffy seconded, that \$471.00 be expended from Budget Category #450 to pay Factor 360 for the Commission’s annual website hosting and maintenance fee.

MOTION PASSED

Old Business: Booklet Printing/Inventory Update (1.14.26)

Commission Member Kean reviewed a Publication Inventory dated January 14, 2026, of booklets located at Pierre City Hall and at the Ft. Pierre Development Corporation. He noted that the inventory list will be updated, republished and distributed to Commission Members once the recently reprinted booklets are relocated to Pierre City Hall from the printer.

Talking Trails Research Update

Commission Member Shirley Swanson will update the Commission on this project at the February meeting.

Brad Tennant Presentation Update

Commission Member Kean shared that Mr. Brad Tennant would be available to present at the Tales on the River program in Ft. Pierre during the summer 2026 season. Mr. Tennant offered several presentation topics relevant to the history of the Pierre/Ft. Pierre communities that would be of great interest. His fee for the summer of 2026 is \$400 a session. After discussion the Commission agreed to contact Mr. Tennant offering to sponsor two presentations during the 2026 summer season: 1. "La Verendrye and the Opening of the Western Fur Trade" and 2. "Homesteading and Settling the Great Plains."

MOTION: Patti Duffy moved, Ted Spencer seconded that \$800.00 be expended from Budget Category #450 to cover the costs of Mr. Brad Tennant conducting two presentations (1. "Verendrye"; and 2. "Homesteading" at \$400 per presentation) during the Tales on the River 2026 summer speakers program at the Moose Lodge in Ft. Pierre, SD.

MOTION PASSED

Kean will contact Mr. Tennant and the Short Grass Arts Council/Tales on the River program to complete necessary details.

Waldron Memorial Update

Commission Member Kean shared the City of Ft. Pierre remains interested in refurbishing the Waldron Memorial. Kean contacted a person who was involved with the state capitol maintenance efforts during the time the Waldron memorial was created. He shared his recollections on how the Waldron and similar metal memorials were maintained. He also referred Kean to another person in Aberdeen who was involved with the cleaning efforts. Kean will continue to seek background information on refurbishing options and report back to the Commission later in the spring.

New Business: Calendar of Annual Events

President Buscher led the Commission in reviewing the development and implementation of an annual events calendar of Commission activities, events and deadlines throughout a typical year. The calendar will assist the Commission plan for the many efforts it participates in.

Pierre Hill District Project

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is interested in updating the Pierre Hill Historic District survey information. The Historic District was listed in the National Registry in 1998 based on information gathered in 1990-1991. The update will reflect current property information. SHPO contacted the Commission to assist in this effort by acting as a passthrough entity for the contract funds. The Commission performs a similar function to assist the implementation of the current Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau maintenance contract between SHPO and the City of Fort Pierre. The Commission will not assume any direct responsibility regarding preparing, conducting and implementating the survey update. After discussion, the Commission agreed to gather some additional information from SHPO for further discussion at its February meeting.

Memberships: Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, Verendrye Museum, Oahe Chapel, SDSH Society

Commission Members discussed continuing its ongoing membership in several organizations. The consensus of the Commission is its membership in organizations with a demonstrated focus on the history of the Pierre and Ft. Pierre communities is mutually beneficial and supports the Commission's mission and purpose.

MOTION: Allen Haarstad moved, Patti Duffy seconded that funds be expended from Budget Category #450 for 2026 membership dues to the following organizations in the amounts stated:

Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance - \$100.00

Verendrye Museum, Ft. Pierre - \$500.00

Oahe Chapel Preservation Society - \$500.00

South Dakota State Historical Society - \$175.00

MOTION PASSED

Ft. Pierre Invoice: Verendrye/Ft. Pierre Chouteau Maintenance

Commission Treasurer Leslie noted the receipt of a \$1,700.00 invoice from the City of Ft. Pierre for maintenance of the Verendrye Monument and Ft. Pierre Chouteau. Historically, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) called for an annual payment to be paid in May. Leslie reported that she had verified with the state that \$8,000 was allocated for the project in the current year's SHPO grant. She indicated that she had contacted the City of Ft. Pierre about the invoice and learned that it can be disregarded. The City of Ft. Pierre will invoice the Commission for the entire \$8,000 as usual in April for payment in May.

Other Business: Andy's Meat Market Sign

Andy's Meat Market Sign, located at the northeast corner of the Deadwood Street and East Main Avenue intersection in Ft. Pierre was vandalized again necessitating replacement. Commission Member Kean will contact M&R Signs, who installed the current sign, regarding costs of replacement and report back to the Commission.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 12pm noon CST at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501.

**PIERRE – FT. PIERRE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
C/O: PIERRE CITY HALL
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