



Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

February 2026 Minutes

February 17, 2026, meeting at the Pierre City Hall, 2301 Patron Parkway, Pierre, SD 57501

Note: Due to illness, by consensus, Commission Member Larry Eliason conducted the meeting.

Meeting called to Order at 12:05pm CST.

In Attendance

Commission Members: Donna Leslie, Treasurer; Robert Kean, Secretary; Alan Haarstad, Larry Eliason, Shirley Swanson

COMMISSION MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST NOTIFICATION: None noted.

Guests: No guests attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Meeting working documents were referred to and reviewed including agenda item "Talking Trails" material, additional financial information and accompanying notes.

Commission Members Volunteer Hours were recorded.

Volunteer Hours: SHPO Grant Year: September 22, 2025 – January 20, 2026 = 137.75

Calendar Year: January 1, 2026 – January 20, 2026 = 32.75

Approval of Minutes

The January 20, 2026, Commission Minutes were reviewed and there being no further additions or corrections, Alan Haarstad moved, Shirley Swanson seconded, that the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission (PFTPHPC) January 20, 2026, Minutes be approved as presented.

MOTION PASSED

Financial Planning Document Review

Commission Members reviewed the PFTPHPC Financial Planning Document dated February 13, 2026 provided to the Commission prior to the meeting and accompanying materials. Commission Treasurer Leslie provided a detailed update from the January 2026 Financial Planning Document including membership, website hosting and domain payments. Leslie further noted the Commission has been awarded \$16,000 by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to facilitate a contract between SHPO and a private contractor to conduct a routine review and update of the Pierre Historic Hill District. The limited and specific facilitating function the Commission will provide is to pay the contractor a series of payments set out in contract as the work increments are verified as completed.

Old Business : Booklet Printing/Inventory

Commission Member Kean updated the Commission on the number and titles of Commission booklets currently located at Pierre City Hall and the Log Cabin/Ft. Pierre Development Corporation in Ft. Pierre.

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### Talking Trails

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Commission Member Swanson updated the Commission on her research regarding establishing a “Talking Trails” information system in the Pierre and Ft. Pierre communities. Shawn Brannon, involved with business development at Talking Trails joined the Commission by phone for an extensive discussion on many aspects of developing, implementing and maintaining a program. The Commission, by consensus, agreed more discussion and review of options will be needed before the Commission is ready to decide on progressing further with a dedicated effort.

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### Brad Tennant

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Commission Member Kean reported Mr. Brad Tennant has agreed to speak twice at the Tales on the River program in Ft. Pierre this summer. On June 18, 2026, he will present, “Fame Over Misfortune – La Verendrye and the Opening of the Western Fur Trade.” On July 16, 2026, he will present, “Homesteading and Settling the Great Plains.” A contract for Mr. Tennant’s presentations has been signed. Follow-up publicity on his presentations will be conducted by the Short Grass Arts Council, sponsor of the Tales on the River summer speakers program at the Moose Lodge in Ft. Pierre.

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### Waldron Memorial

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Commission Member Kean updated the Commission on efforts to get information on how best to refurbish the Waldron Memorial in Ft. Pierre. He has been in contact with persons knowledgeable in the maintenance and upkeep of metal monuments and statuary in the Capitol grounds areas and will further inform the Commission with recommendations.

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### Andy’s Meat Market Sign

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Commission Member Kean reported that he sought bids from two businesses to replace the recently damaged Andy’s Meat Market sign in Ft. Pierre. He will inform the Commission when both bids are received.

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### Pierre Hill District

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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 proposed update is a routine review done periodically to reflect current property information. SHPO contacted the Commission to assist in this effort by facilitating payments to the contractor upon completion of task increments. The contract cost of \$16,000 has been placed into the Commissions current budget by SHPO. The Commission reviewed the proposed contract, related correspondence and discussed the Commission’s limited and specific role.

MOTION: Allan Haarstad moved, Larry Eliason seconded that President Buscher is authorized to sign the proposed SHPO - Pierre Historic Hill District Consulting Contract on behalf of the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission, provided:

1. The introductory paragraph of the consulting contract is corrected to include Ft. Pierre in the title of the Commission (HPC),
2. The consulting contract includes information designating who will affirm the incremental tasks are complete prior to the Commission releasing a payment, and,
3. SHPO will advise the Commission how the Pierre Historic Hill District residents will be informed of the survey prior to its start and throughout its implementation.

MOTION PASSED

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**New Business : CLG Progress Report**

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This item was moved to the next Commission meeting.

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**Grant Application**

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Commission Members discussed the components and process of developing a SHPO and other grants and the required authority to submit for funding.

MOTION: Donna Leslie moved, Shirley Swanson seconded that the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission President has the authority to apply for any applicable grants within the scope and mission of the Commission's permitted activities.

MOTION PASSED

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**Other Business:**

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None presented.

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**Meeting Adjourned**

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Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 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

2301 Patron Parkway

Pierre, SD 57501

Email: [info@historicpierrefortpierre.com](mailto:info@historicpierrefortpierre.com)

Website: <https://historicpierrefortpierre.com>