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## Pierre/Ft. Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

### March 2022 Minutes

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*March 22, 2022 meeting at the Log Cabin, Ft. Pierre, SD called to Order by President Zeller at 12:02pm.*

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#### In Attendance

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Commission Members: President Don Zeller, Treasurer Donna Leslie, Secretary Robert Kean, Sunny Hannum, Deb Gates, Kelli Buscher,

Pierre City Representative Matt Elberson,

Guest: Doug Mortensen.

Meeting work documents were noted including maps of the Cedar Hill Cemetery. Sunny Hannum referenced a book published by the SD Historical Society Press containing diary and other anecdotal information relating to the early history of the Ft. Pierre area. She is using this source material on some current projects.

Commission Member Volunteer Hours were recorded.

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#### Approval of Minutes

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The February 15, 2022 Revised Draft Commission Minutes were reviewed. Commission discussion confirmed that the Motion to pay an invoice to Ft. Pierre Development Corporation set out on page 1 of the Minutes reflected the correct Budget Expense Category. There being no further additions or corrections, Sunny Hannum moved, Kelli Buscher seconded, that the PFPHPC February 15, 2022 Minutes be approved and distributed as presented. Motion passed.

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#### Financial Planning Document Review

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Commission Members reviewed the PFPHPC Financial Planning Document and accompanying materials previously provided to Commission Member prior to the meeting by the Commission Treasurer Donna Leslie. The March 2022 Financial Document dated March 11, 2022 reflects detailed updates of Commission financial activities. Also included in the materials were the following: a general informational letter from the South Dakota National Guard explaining its role and function in updating and implementing the current Integration Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRPM) and inviting comments and requests for information; and, an informational letter setting out the vitae and experiences of a candidate to the Board of South Dakota Historical Society Trustees. Treasurer Leslie also noted paid items reflected in the report including annual dues paid to the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society and Verendrye Museum. Additionally, the number of Pierre/Ft. Pierre Driving booklets (6,750) that were previously authorized to be purchased was inserted into the report.

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**Old Business :** Cedar Hill Cemetery

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Commission Member Sunny Hannum updated the Commission on a variety of items relating to the Commission's Cedar Hill Cemetery effort to complete an initial booklet with cemetery information and gravesite overlays and assist in the further plans to completely rehabilitate the cemetery site. At the January Commission meeting, a motion was made to do a small printing of the Cedar Hill Cemetery booklet by Betsy DeLoach for up to \$600.00. This will start the publishing of the material gathered to date including maps, and overlays highlighting significant gravesites. Doug Mortenson, a member of the Cedar Hill Cemetery Board, who is assisting the effort joined in further discussion and updated the Commission on his efforts related to the gravesite mapping, developing overlays, and other cemetery related activities. A list of 72 names has been developed from those listed in the DeLoach booklet that reflect key family names to be located on maps for inclusion in the final booklet. A variety of approaches to best identify the gravesites on maps within the booklet were reviewed and discussed, including types of legends; color coding; directional reference points; and combinations of differing interrelated map sizes. It was noted that the cemetery's physical layout is challenging in that a significant amount of the area is empty with the graves in clusters. In addition, gullies, inclines, hills, trees, and, bushes also are factors that will need to be considered as revitalization efforts proceed. It was agreed that booklet publishing will await the gravesite map/overlay map development. May was discussed as the tentative deadline to expend resources withing the grant period. Commission Member Kelli Buscher will work with Mr. Mortenson on the mapping efforts, and they will report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Mortenson also provided an update to the Commission on recent activities of the Cedar Hill Cemetery Board. The Board is working on a number of projects, including: developing a long range plan to establish and name streets within the cemetery; looking for survey markers to clearly establish the design parameters and limits of the cemetery; and, reviewing opportunities for funding from organizations, especially those who have an interest in gravesites of Civil War Veterans.

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#### Pierre/Ft. Pierre Driving Tour Booklet

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Commission President Zeller led Commission discussion on the intended distribution and locations for placing the driving tour booklets around the communities. Commission Member Sunny Hannum is updating the Publication Inventory to include number of publications available and their location. She will send the updated inventory to Members once completed.

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#### CLG Conference in Rapid City

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Commission Members Sunny Hannum and Don Zeller will attend the CLG Conference in Rapid City, SD representing the Commission. It was noted that the reimbursement process requires attention to the forms to avoid confusion and delays.

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#### State and Tribal Grant Emails Review

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Commission Member Kelli Buscher reported on her canvassing of material forwarded to her from a variety of state and tribal entities that describe the availability of potential project funding opportunities. She gave examples of the types of activities that may be of interest to the Commission in the future. There are activities celebrating significant dates, such as the upcoming United States Semiquincentennial (also called the Sestercentennial or Quarter Millennial) and activities to drawn attention to a specific group, such as under represented communities. Another type of activity is to support restoration and revitalization. Buscher gave an example of this called, "Save American Treasures." Its purpose is to provide resources to help preserve and

revitalize locations of national historical significance. Commission Members discussed whether the Arikara site east of Pierre on highway 34 could be considered. Due to the site's location on private land that may restrict public access and other considerations, it was agreed that the site would probably not meet eligible criteria at this time. An additional question whether the Commission has the authority to engage in this type of activity was also raised.

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### Grant Application Ideas

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Commission Members reviewed past expenditure items covered by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHIPO) and discussed additional items for consideration moving forward. The number of germane conferences available to Commission Members has been drastically changed due to the Covid pandemic. Some national conferences are not being held in person and are using alternative means to attend like Zoom. Other conferences such as the CLG and State Historical Society Annual History Conference are continuing and support relating to costs of travel and attendance for Commission Members will be part of the upcoming grant submission. Commission Members discussed additional efforts that could be covered by the grant including collaborations with visiting tourist groups to provide speakers on relevant historical topics of interest. Sunny Hannum provided information on Lewis & Clark groups planning on visiting the Pierre/Ft. Pierre area in late May and early June that may have an interest in having a presentation as part of their visit. Commission Members shared their thoughts on who can be contacted to see if there is interest in developing a speakers bureau and pursuing the concept. Commission Members Don Zeller and Deb Gates offered to look into finding Lewis & Clark presenters.

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### Game Fish & Parks Bike Trail

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Commission Members Kelli Buscher and Robert Kean reviewed and updated the Commission on information previously sent to the Commission regarding the potential availability of funds to extend a bike path from the current bike path where it crosses Ft. Chouteau Road to the Ft. Chouteau Bastion site and create new signage along the current bike path. Accessing funds through state Game, Fish & Parks sources is done through an application process. The current application period closes on April 8, 2022. A review of the application detail and anticipated prior design work needed to be completed to satisfactorily submit an application precluded applying for funds this cycle. After Kean reviewed his discussion with Ft. Pierre Public Works Director Rick Hahn on the alternatives of building a new path or painting a bike path onto the Ft. Chouteau Road, the Commission decided to ask Mr. Hahn for more information on the feasibility of painting a bike trail onto Ft. Chouteau Road. In addition, the Commission would like more information regarding signage options to better direct persons to Ft. Chouteau and other historical sites in the area. Kean will pursue the bike trail painting onto Ft. Chouteau Road and signage questions with Mr. Hahn.

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### Ft. Pierre Chouteau Bastion Preventative Maintenance

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Commission President Zeller shared recollections of discussions that took place during the design and creation of the Ft. Pierre Chouteau Bastion calling attention to the fact that due to climate and weathering, routine maintenance of the exposed wood of the bastion will need to be routinely scheduled to avoid untimely degrading. To the best of Commission Members collective recollections, maintenance to the wood has not been done. Commission Member Robert Kean will contact Ted Spencer at the State Historical Preservation Office (SHIPO) for his thoughts on the maintenance needs and funds available to conduct the required work. Commission Member Sunny Hannum noted that the Log Cabin had its logs treated and will retrieve some information on that work and share with the Commission Members.

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## Historic Preservation Commission Vacancy

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The vacancy for a Pierre position on the Commission has yet to be filled.

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## **New Business** : Factor 360 Bill

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An outstanding bill at Factor 360 in the amount of \$472.86 was discussed and found to be due and owing for past services provided.

MOTION: Kelli Buscher moved, Sunny Hannum seconded that, funds in the amount of \$472.86 be expended from Budget Expense Category #439 to pay the outstanding bill at Factor 360. Motion passed.

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## State Historical Society Annual History Conference

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The SD State Historical Society Annual History Conference will be held at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre, SD on April 22-23, 2022. Commission Member's registration costs will be reimbursed by the Commission.

MOTION: Sunny Hannum moved, Kelli Buscher seconded that, funds be expended from Budget Expense Category #439 to pay the registration cost of \$135.00 per person for up to five Commission Members attending the SD State Historical Society Annual History Conference in Pierre, SD from April 22-23, 2022 upon submission of necessary documentation.

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## Meeting Adjourned

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President Zeller adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at noon at the Log Cabin, Ft. Pierre, SD.