

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



Shelley Walker-Harmon
Commission Chair
hpc@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

Mike Ray
Staff Liaison
208.883.7008

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/431/Historic-Preservation-Commission>

Thursday
June 25, 2026

4:30 PM

Haddock Building
504 S. Washington Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2026 (ACTION ITEM)

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

2. Public Comment

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

3. University of Idaho Historic District Nomination Update

An update will be given on the status of the University of Idaho Historic District National Register Nomination.

4. Citizen Survey Questions (ACTION ITEM)

The City has distributed Citizen Surveys to a random number of addresses every two years since 2002. The 2026 Citizen Survey will be distributed this fall, and every City Commission has been requested to provide two questions to be included in the survey.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Discuss and provide staff with feedback and further direction if necessary.

5. 2026 Orchid Awards (ACTION ITEM)

The topic of the Orchid Awards will be discussed, as well as strategies for finding appropriate candidates.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Discuss and provide staff with feedback and further direction if necessary.

6. Commission Newsletter Discussion (ACTION ITEM)

The Historic Preservation Commission has historically published an annual newsletter which ended in 2019. The Commission will discuss whether to pursue publishing the newsletters again in the future.

NOTICE: It is the policy of the City of Moscow that all City-sponsored public meetings and events are accessible to all people. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability under the ADA, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator by phone at (208) 883-7600, TDD (208) 883-7019, or by email at adaordinator@ci.moscow.id.us at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. The City of Moscow is committed to ensuring that all reasonable accommodation requests are fulfilled.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Discuss and provide staff with feedback and further direction if necessary.

7. Interpretive Signage in Friendship Square (ACTION ITEM)

The Commission will discuss the plan for adding interpretive signage in Friendship Square.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Discuss and provide staff with feedback and further direction if necessary.

REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled for July 23, 2026.

ADJOURN

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



Shelley Walker-Harmon
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Mike Ray
Staff Liaison
208.883.7008

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/431/Historic-Preservation-Commission>

Thursday
May 28, 2026

4:30 PM

Haddock Building
504 S. Washington Street

Reese called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nels Reese, Vice Chair; Laurabeth Kowalick, Anne Marshall, LaRae Tomera, Kayla Youngren
MEMBERS ABSENT: April Hernandez, Renee Magee, Jack Porter, Shelley Walker-Harmon
OTHERS: Sandra Kelly
STAFF: Mike Ray

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2026 (ACTION ITEM)

Marshall moved for approval of the minutes as written, seconded by Youngren. Vote by Acclamation: Ayes: Unanimous (5). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

None offered.

3. University of Idaho Historic District Nomination Review and Recommendation (ACTION ITEM)

The University of Idaho Historic District has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination has been distributed to the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission for review and comment. Any member of the public may submit comments to the commission for their review and consideration. The commission will compile the comments and make a recommendation to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office for consideration by the Idaho State Historic Sites Review Board.

The Commissioners reviewed the draft recommendation letter written by Nels Reese (see attached) and the submitted recommendation letter written by Mayor Hailey Lewis (see attached). Staff informed the Commission that the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be taking comments from the general public until June 8, 2026, as described above.

Marshall moved to approve submission of a Moscow Historic Preservation Commission recommendation letter to SHPO for the University of Idaho Historic District as discussed, seconded by Youngren. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous (5). Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

4. 2026 Orchid Awards (ACTION ITEM)

The topic of the Orchid Awards will be discussed, as well as strategies for finding appropriate candidates.

The Commission continued discussing potential projects to nominate for the upcoming Orchid Awards.

5. Interpretive Signage in Friendship Square (ACTION ITEM)

The Commission will discuss the plan for adding interpretive signage in Friendship Square.

It was reported that a graphic designer is currently working on updating the Friendship Square board design.

REPORTS

Youngren shared their experiences at the SHPO 2026 Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training in Coeur D’Alene.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled for June 25, 2026.

The Commissioners talked about bringing the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission Newsletter back and requested Staff add it to a future agenda as a discussion item (see attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM

Shelley Walker-Harmon, Chair

Date

DRAFT

Historic Preservation Commission

2002 Survey

Do you think Moscow has historic assets worth preserving?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
24%	42%	18%	5%	1%	9%

Would you be in favor of the City of Moscow providing incentives and assistance to help preserve historic buildings?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
18%	37%	23%	9%	7%	6%

Would you be in favor of the City of Moscow being promoted as a tourist destination, based on its historic assets?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
8%	21%	36%	22%	4%	8%

2004 Survey

I believe the City of Moscow should provide incentives and assistance to help preserve historic buildings.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
25%	38%	21%	9%	4%	3%

I believe the City of Moscow should use its historic assets to promote business activity.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
16%	43%	24%	8%	2%	7%

I believe that downtown Moscow should be promoted as a visitor and entertainment district based on historic assets.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
13%	36%	31%	11%	3%	6%

2006 Survey

Do you agree that the City of Moscow should provide financial or other incentives to help preserve historic buildings located within Moscow?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
22%	40%	21%	9%	5%	3%

Do you agree that downtown Moscow should be promoted as a visitor and entertainment district based on historic assets?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
16%	35%	31%	10%	3%	5%

2008 Survey

I support the adoption of design guidelines within designated historic districts to preserve their historic character.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
17%	45%	21%	9%	5%	2%

I support the preservation of existing historic agricultural buildings in Moscow.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
15%	40%	24%	11%	7%	3%

2010 Survey

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission should be given an opportunity to review proposals for new development, alterations to exterior facades of historic buildings or demolition of historic buildings for appropriateness as part of the building permit process for the downtown historic district.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
21%	37%	16%	9%	7%	8%

2012 Survey

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission should be given an opportunity to review proposals for new development, alterations to exterior facades of historic buildings or demolition of historic buildings for appropriateness as part of the building permit process for the downtown historic district.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Non-Response
22%	43%	14%	10%	6%	4%	2%

2014 Survey

I would like to see signage installed in the downtown area to identify and interpret historic buildings, events, and sites.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
16%	36%	32%	10%	3%	1%

I would be interested in participating in workshops about historic home restoration and additions.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
4%	13%	33%	26%	16%	6%

2017 Survey

When planning roadway improvement projects through designated historic districts and historic neighborhoods, projects should be designed in keeping with the existing context in order to preserve historic integrity and neighborhood character.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
37%	37%	15%	7%	2%	18%

2019 Survey

Which of Moscow's historic neighborhoods would you be most interested in touring and learning more about?

	Extremely Interested	Interested	Neutral	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested	Don't Know	No Answer
Downtown Commercial District	17%	41%	10%	9%	12%	4%	8%
Fort Russell Neighborhood	18%	40%	11%	7%	10%	3%	8%
University of Idaho Campus	13%	33%	13%	10%	17%	4%	9%
Other:	3%	4%	5%	0%	5%	15%	62%

Please rate your level of interest in the following types of tours:

	Extremely Interested	Interested	Neutral	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested	Don't Know	No Answer
Self-guided walking tour with illustrated brochure	14%	40%	13%	11%	14%	2%	8%
Self-guided walking tour with phone app	15%	30%	15%	8%	19%	2%	11%
Self-guided bicycle tour	11%	23%	16%	5%	32%	3%	11%
Walking tour guided by Moscow Historic Preservation Commission member	14%	28%	15%	14%	18%	2%	9%

2023 Survey

Q1: Historic Preservation Workshops

The Historic Preservation asked respondents if they would be interested in attending historic preservation workshops on a variety of topics. Response options included “Agree”, “Neutral”, “Disagree”, “Depends on time/date/place”, and “Don’t Know”. While all workshop options mostly had a “Disagree” response, the workshop topic covering energy conservation in historic homes had the highest “Agree” response at 16% and the workshop topic including restoration of historic windows had the highest “Disagree” response at 50%. The average response rate to this question was 96%.

Would you be interested in attending a three-hour workshop on the following topics:

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Depends
Window Restoration	7%	26%	50%	9%
Energy Conservation	16%	29%	38%	7%
Home Styles	12%	27%	38%	9%
National Register of Historic Places	4%	28%	44%	6%

Q2: Historic Home Voluntary Design Guidelines

When asked if the Commission should develop voluntary design guidelines for historic homes in order to assist homeowners with maintenance, energy conservation, and preservation of homes, 44% of citizens agreed. 19% were neutral with the idea while 12% disagreed and 13% were unfamiliar with the idea. This question had an overall response rate of 96%.

Q3: Historic Preservation Commission Focus Areas

The Commission would like to increase community awareness of the City’s historic resources and asked respondents their opinion regarding what activities they should consider. Options to choose from included “Agree”, “Neutral”, “Disagree”, “Don’t Know”, and “Unfamiliar”. The topic that received the most support was “Creating explanatory signs about historic resources” (63%) whereas the one with the least interest was “Strengthening the Annual Orchid Awards Program” (13%). However, the Orchid Awards Program also had the highest “Unfamiliar” response at 42%. The option with the highest “Disagree” response was the option to “Provide quarterly lectures on historic resources in the City” at 12%. This question received an average response rate of 99%.

To help increase your familiarity with Moscow’s historic resources, the Commission should focus on:

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Unfamiliar
Orchid Awards Program	13%	28%	6%	42%
Historic Neighborhood Tours	51%	27%	7%	8%
Historic Neighborhood Brochures	56%	28%	6%	6%
Historic Resource Lectures	30%	44%	12%	7%
Historic Resource Explanatory Signs	63%	24%	4%	5%