

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



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

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



Heart of the Arts

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Historic Preservation Commission

A Volunteer Commission
of the City of Moscow

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Mike Ray
City Planner
Staff Liaison

**Shelley Walker-
Harmon**
Commission Chair

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Regular Meeting Time:
Fourth Thursday
of the month
4:30 p.m.

First Floor Conf Room
of Haddock Building
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Please check with City
Hall to confirm meeting
times or to volunteer for
this or other City
Commissions

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Historic Preservation Commission
c/o Mike Ray
Haddock Building
504 S Washington St
Moscow, ID 83843-1703
Website: www.ci.moscow.id.us

City Hall
206 East Third Street
Phone (208) 883-7000
Fax (208) 883-7018

Hearing Impaired (208) 883-7019

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May 28, 2026

Dear Historic Review Commission,

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission has long cherished the dream of adding a third district to Moscow's historic legacy. However, the size and complexity of Idaho's flagship institution made the quest modestly challenging. To our best knowledge, the only other university in the western United States to host a district is Oregon State University. The Moscow Commission was encouraged by Oregon State's success in 2008. However, Oregon State had supported their efforts with a large private grant. We in Moscow had yet to find such a grant. Then in 2023 we shared our dream with Dulce Kersting-Lark, the university's head of Special Collections and Archives. She and Dr. Rebecca Schofield, chair of the university's history department, came up with a unique plan to engage graduate students to prepare for employment in the historic preservation world.

Students would be trained in the art of preparing nominations for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. A special course designed to train interested graduate students was set in motion and the rest is history. Out of that graduate level course grew the basic research for a district nomination. Two very able and uniquely skilled students, Nathan Moody and Shelley Walker-Harmon soon showed themselves as both capable and motivated to assemble the nominations required for the district nomination. The College of Art and Architecture was also supportive and an architecture professor, Phillip Mead, offered his services as a technical advisor. After some months of hard work and commitment, the result is before you today.

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission is delighted to offer its full support for this nomination. Of course, we would like to give special thanks to the Idaho State Preservation Office for its encouragement and support. We suggest that this nomination effort, once again displays the unique quality and talent that the University of Idaho offers the State of Idaho. We hope that the Historic Sites Review Commission will agree with us and assist in moving this nomination toward final approval by the Department of the Interior.

Very respectfully submitted,

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission



Heart of the Arts

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Hailey Lewis
Mayor

Drew Davis
Council President

Bryce Blankenship
Council Vice-President

Evan Holmes
Council Member

Sandra Kelly
Council Member

Sage McCetich
Council Member

Scott Sumner
Council Member

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Bill Belknap
City Administrator

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City of Moscow, City Hall
c/o Bill Belknap, City Administrator
206 East 3rd Street
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Hearing Impaired (208) 883-7019
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May 18, 2026

State Historic Preservation Office
210 Main St
Boise ID 83702

Re: Proposed University of Idaho Historic District, Moscow, Latah County, Idaho

Dear Members of the Idaho State Historic Sites Review Board:

On behalf of the City of Moscow, I am writing to express our strong support for the University of Idaho's application for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Many of the University's signature buildings are already individually listed on the National Register and collectively represent an exceptional collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Collegiate Gothic and Romanesque Revival architecture. Together, these structures create a cohesive and architecturally significant historic district that reflects both the heritage of the University and the broader history of higher education in Idaho.

The City of Moscow believes that the designation of this historic district would provide substantial cultural, educational, and community benefits. Such recognition would honor the unique architectural character of the campus and acknowledge the important role the University of Idaho has played in the development of the region and the State of Idaho for more than a century. The University has long served as a center for education, research, innovation, and civic engagement, and its historic campus is an important symbol of that legacy.

Recognition of this significant historic asset would also broaden public awareness and appreciation of the University's history while serving as an educational resource for students, residents, and visitors alike. Preserving and celebrating this remarkable collection of historic buildings will strengthen community identity, promote heritage tourism, and further enhance the character and vitality of Moscow. The careful stewardship and preservation of these structures over many decades demonstrates a strong commitment to maintaining this irreplaceable part of Idaho's cultural heritage.

I am not aware of another more deserving collection of carefully maintained and preserved historic structures within Idaho for designation as a recognized historic district, and I enthusiastically support this nomination.

Sincerely,


Hailey Lewis
Mayor

Moscow Historic Preservation Commission

Newsletters

This list is an effort to review the history and success of the [Moscow](#) Preservation Commission Newsletter. As far as I can tell the newsletter was first published in 1995. Therefore, we now have a 24 year history. I believe our last newsletter was published in 2019. Note that Jack Porter is our original and longest serving member.

*The first four editions of the newsletter were titled: **Moscow Historic Preservation Commission Newsletter.***

- 1995** **First Newsletter: Chair, Jack Porter;** Editor, Julie Monroe;
- 1996** Second Newsletter: Kappa Sig; Lost Communities
- 1997** Orchid Awards: **Chair, Jack Porter,** 1912 Moscow High School
- 1998** Sense of Place: **Chair, J. Porter;** Ed. J. Monroe; Design, J. Reese

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, (lost or misplaced)

*At some point the newsletter title became **Cornerstone** with a sub-head of Newsletter of the Moscow Preservation Commission.*

- 2004** Russell's Legacy
- 2005** Moscow Downtown Historic District
- 2006** Moscow Public Library, 100 + Downtown Hist. District: **Chair, John Campbell;** Ed. Carol Spurling; Designer, M. Rockwood
- 2007** Heart of Arts to Restore 1912: **Chair, John Campbell;** Ed. Carol Spurling;
- 2008** **Dumas Seed Plant in Flames, 1945: Chair, Jo Campbell;** Ed. Barb Coyner;
- 2009** Blaine Manor: **Chair, Cheryl Zmina;** Ed. Carol Spurling; Design, M. Rockwood; Nels Reese appointed to Commission for first time. Reese became chair when it appeared that Cheryl was not able to be in town on a regular basis.

*The Commission changed the name of the newsletter to **Preservation Moscow.***

- 2010** **City Hall/Post Office: Chair, D. Nels Reese;** Ed. Barbara Coyner; Designer, M. Rockwood
- 2011** **Moscow City Hall @ 100: Chair, D. Nels Reese;** Ed. Barbara Coyner; Design, M. Rockwood
- 2012** **1912 Building @ 100: Chair D. Nels Reese;** Ed. Barbara Coyner; Designer, Joyce Reese
(During this issue Melissa was not available for the newsletter design so Joyce filled in as a volunteer rather than a paid designer)

These later Newsletter are available on line.

- 2013** **Tale of Two Parks;** Mary Ann Reese
- 2014** **Fort Russell Historic District;** Barb Coyner, Designer: Pam Overholzer
- 2015** **Doorways to Higher Learning;** Barb Coyner, **Wendy McClure Chair.**
- 2016** **Moscow's Downtown Living Room,**
- 2017** **Moscow Main Street**
- 2018** **All the World's a Stage**
- 2019** **Orchid Awards for 2019, Wendy McClure chair**

