

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF POCATELLO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 19, 2025 • 6:00 PM
POCATELLO CITY HALL | COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 911 NORTH 7TH AVENUE

Vizcarra called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM.

1. ROLL CALL.

PRESENT: Kristopher Boatman, Tabatha Butler, Ruta Casabianca, Darryn Davidson, Ellen Ryan, and Marty Vizcarra. **UNEXCUSED:** Kaitlin Blincoe. **STAFF:** Jim Anglesey and Aceline McCulla.

2. APPROVE MINUTES.

The Commission may wish waive the oral reading of the meeting minutes held October 2, 2024, and January 15, 2025, and to approve the minutes as presented.

It was moved by **T. Butler** and seconded by **K. Boatman** to approve the HPC meeting minutes as written held December 4, 2024. Those in favor: K. Boatman, T. Butler, R. Casabianca, D. Davidson, E. Ryan, and M. Vizcarra. Unanimous. Motion carried.

3. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – FILE: COA25-0001.

This time has been set aside for the Commission to hear comments from the public regarding a certificate of appropriateness application submitted by Randy Dixon of Relight the Night, represented by Jerry Meyers. The subject property, known as 101 S. Arthur Avenue, Lookout Point Park, entails 1.5 acres (more or less) and is within the Historic Preservation Overlay. The request is to install a historic neon display that does not meet the design standards of the Downtown Historic District. **(ACTION ITEM)** (Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing)

Jerry Meyers representing Relight the Night stated this is no longer a sign, but a piece of neon artwork, which was donated to Relight the Night, and who paid to refurbish the historic neon sign as artwork, and they would like to move this to the Lookout Point park location. The Planning Department staff does not believe it belongs in the historic district, as the business was on South 5th Avenue and in the Downtown Historic District. The review committee found this sign is considered a recycled iconic element that RTN would like to be reused and placed in the Historic Downtown District. Myers read different sections of the National Parks Guidelines and should be followed. This old iconic sign meets the National Parks Secretary of Interiors Guidelines. Myers presented pictures of signs in the Historic Downtown and the National Park Guideline sections, which will be included with the approved minutes.

Butler provided contradictory verbiage and relevance, the Parks and Recreation Director needs to provide a letter for approval to placement in the Lookout Point Park, and a letter is also required of approval to place this sign at the Chamber of Commerce Information building location.

Davidson asked if other historic signs that are refurbished from Pocatello businesses will end up in a City Park. **Myers** noted that tours are currently available for ghost signs. A neon sign alley tour could also be created for neon signs as art and retaining Pocatello's business history.

Long-Range Sr. Planner **Jim Anglesey** of the City of Pocatello summarized the staff report. Anglesey emphasized historical integrity is not met and locating it out of its origination corridor, the South 5th Avenue Corridor is the preferred location by staff.

No written public comments were received in regards to this request.

In consideration of the application, staff concludes that the Certificate of Appropriateness application is not compliant with the Pocatello Downtown Historic District Design Standards. If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

- Any disturbed landscaping shall be restored to pre-installation conditions with backfill and sod (not seed).
- Any damages caused by the installation of the neon display shall be repaired at the expense of Relight the Night or their selected contractor.

Vizcarra asked if the City of Pocatello will take ownership of this sign if located within Lookout Point. **Anglesey** stated yes, an MOU will be created with the City.

Vizcarra opened the hearing for public comment at 6:34 PM.

Those in support:

Leeann Dutton stated the project is to be Idaho's biggest neon sign and create a neon sign fest. Neon signs are meant to be in a slower traffic area to be viewed and displayed.

Stephanie Palagi of Historic Downtown Pocatello stated they raised a lot of money for this park and any landscaping in area of placement will be replaced just as beautiful.

Denis Clijsters is a business owner in the area and he is supportive of this sign, and his business has a view of the park and many people and business is generated by adding the neon signs.

Amanda Collins, Board member of Historic Downtown Pocatello, who is happy about this sign going up and the enthusiasm of the sign joining the neon sign art community.

Irving Johnson, Board member of Historic Downtown Pocatello is in favor of this project.

Those Neutral or Opposed: **None**.

Rebuttal:

Myers stated he was on the HPC for many years and LeeAnn Dutton was part of the CDBG Division in the Planning Department and we ask

With no more public comments **Vizcarra** closed the public hearing at 6:45 PM.

It was moved by **T. Butler** and seconded by **R. Casabianca** to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness application from Randy Dixon to locate the Idaho Motel neon display at Lookout Point Park, finding the application meets the standards for approval in the Pocatello Downtown Historic District Design Standards, and authorize the Chair to sign the Findings of Fact. Those in favor: K. Boatman, T. Butler, R. Casabianca, D. Davidson, E. Ryan, and M. Vizcarra. Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. PRESERVATION PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

The Commission may wish to discuss preservation projects and updates on assignments.

- Community Engagement & Outreach
 - o May - Historic Preservation Month
 - May Art Walk, other events
 - Proclamation - Have Rick Cheatem read the proclamation.

- Social Media Posts – topics

The HPC is set up for the Environmental Fair, the last Saturday of April on the 26th

When the renaming of Purse Park and celebrating Black history with a bronze statue of a parent and child.

- The Triangle will

- Brady Chapel: **Casabianca** stated there are no updates, they are seeking more members to assist with their goals.
- Historic Preservation Plan: Anglesey received the draft this evening and will email to everyone for review and comments. Public comment will be posted online by end of February and then Huffaker will have final draft for review in April.
- WWII Heritage City Nomination: **Anglesey** stated he is working on this nomination application.

5. ADJOURN.

With no other work session business, Vizcarra adjourned the work session 7:21 PM.

Submitted by:


Aceline McCulla, Secretary

Approved on: April 2, 2025