



ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 08, 2026 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho

Call to Order

The meeting of the Sandpoint Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 8:31am on Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, by Chairwoman Susnis in the Council chambers of City Hall. The Commission welcomed new members Carrie Logan and Bill Aitken.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Elle Susnis
Commissioner Barry Burgess
Commissioner Rick Decker
Commissioner Kate McAlister
Commissioner Carol Deaner
Commissioner Darra Collison
Commissioner Carrie Logan
Commissioner Bill Aitken

ABCENT

CPD Director Jason Welker
Staff Liaison Bill Dean

Meeting Minutes Approval

1. The August 11th, 2026, meeting minutes were approved unanimously by commissioners present.
Motion made by Commissioner McAlister, Seconded by Commissioner Deaner.
Voting Yea: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner Decker, Commissioner McAlister, Commissioner Deaner, Commissioner Collison, Commissioner Logan, Commissioner Aitken

Financial Report

2. Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) Financial Report

The latest financial information from the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency reflects the following for art fund balances as of July 30th, 2026:

Downtown: \$257,282.10 Northern: \$140,786.76

Commission Business - Arts

3. Public Art Future Project Discussion - **Action Item**

The Commission discussed potential locations for future public art projects in the Northern and Downtown SURA Districts.

Kaniksu Health Property: The Commission approved moving forward with planning for a sculpture near the entrance to Super One on Kaniksu property.

Motion made by Commissioner Deaner, Seconded by Commissioner Logan.

Voting Yea: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner Decker, Commissioner McAlister, Commissioner Deaner, Commissioner Collison, Commissioner Logan, Commissioner Aitken

Farmin/Stidwell School property was identified as another potential site; staff will first determine property/facility interest. Other potential projects discussed included: Public art along the future bike trail extension, public art at City Beach, a gateway artwork project associated with Downtown Revitalization Phase III, and potential use of existing downtown gateway arches/poles for artwork.

The Commission emphasized supporting local and regional artists and agreed to request that artist selection/scoring process clearly recognize local and regional artists and include a declaration of any AI-generated submissions. Long-term funding options following the expiration of SURA funds were also discussed. Chairwoman Susnis will proceed with planning for the Fall downtown banner art RFP.

Commission Business - Culture

4. Historic Walking Tour - Update

One tour was held August 28 with four participants; another was cancelled due to weather. Two additional tours are planned for September. The Commission will explore a potential partnership with a new trolley service for historic tours.

Commission Business - Historic Preservation

5. Commercial A Historic Preservation - Update

The Commission discussed the September 15 property-owner meeting regarding proposed Downtown Core zoning and historic preservation changes. The meeting will be held from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Music Conservatory as a joint/postable meeting with Planning & Zoning. A community workshop/open house is anticipated in October.

Commission Business - General

The City Council approved the Carousel Smiles mural on September 2. City Council approved a 40-year lease for the Bonner County Historical Museum, allowing the Museum to proceed with planned improvements. Applicant of the previously approved mural depicting Ross Hall photos is exploring SURA funding in partnership with the ACHP. Staff will clarify ownership, eligibility, location, and whether the project remains consistent with current mural/sign regulations before bringing the matter forward. The Commission discussed changes to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and proposed changes to federal Section 106 regulations. Members were encouraged to stay informed through the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and related webinars. Lastly, the Commission discussed developing a policy for removal or disposal of City-owned public artwork, that is damaged, deteriorated, or beyond reasonable repair. The policy would establish a consistent process and would be forwarded to City Council for consideration.

Commissioners' Roundtable

Commissioners shared updates on upcoming arts, museum, educational, and community activities, including: a drawing class focused on learning Sandpoint history through architecture, a new agricultural/history installation being developed in partnership with the University of Idaho and the Bonner County Historical Museum, the recent Kids Farmers Market and opportunities to support young local artists, and upcoming free live music at The Hive on September 15.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

I presided over the meeting and can confirm that minutes, prepared by the Board Clerk and City Staff Liaison, were approved by the Arts Culture and Historic Preservation Commission during their regular meeting held on _____.

Elle Susnis, Chair

Kami Omodt, Board Clerk

DRAFT