



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
January 16, 2026, 11:00 AM
Regular Meeting
Council Conference Room, La Plata Town Hall
305 Queen Anne St.
La Plata MD

PRESENT: Vice Chair Steuart Bowling
Mary Beth Chandler
Jane Hobbs
Councilman Paul Guttenberg
Kathy Dodson Hancher

ABSENT: Chair Rich Gilpin

TOWN STAFF: Don Dooley, Director of Planning
Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Bowling called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Vice Chair Bowling served as Chair for the meeting in the absence of Chair Gilpin.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bowling led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. Approval of minutes from meeting on November 21, 2025.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to approve the minutes as presented from the meeting on November 21, 2025.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Mary Beth Chandler.

Kathy Dodson Hancher abstained from the vote on the minutes for the reason of non-member status during the November 21, 2025 meeting.

Passed Unanimously

4. Election of Historic Preservation Commission Chair & Vice Chair for 2026

4.1. Election of Chair

Mary Beth Chandler moved to nominate Chair Rich Gilpin to remain as Chair for 2026.

Moved By: Mary Beth Chandler, seconded by Jane Hobbs.

Passed Unanimously

4.2. Election of Vice Chair

Jane Hobbs moved to nominate Stuart Bowling as Vice Chair for 2026.

Moved By: Jane Hobbs, seconded by Mary Beth Chandler.

Passed Unanimously

5. Matters of Discussion

5.1. Adoption of Centennial Plaque Program Resolution

Councilman Guttenberg moved to adopt Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 2026-01, recommending a "Centennial Plaque Program."

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Mary Beth Chandler.

Passed Unanimously

5.2. Development of a Preservation Professionals List for La Plata Community

Director Dooley informed the Historic Preservation Commission that he would begin development of the Preservation Professionals List, a component of the 2025 -2030 Work Plan, while answering clarifying questions on the task. Upon request for volunteers by Director Dooley, Commissioner Chandler agreed to assist in the list development.

5.3. Historic Resource Commission Meeting Cadence

The Historic Preservation Commission and Director Dooley discussed concerns about the cadence at which meetings occur. The Commission determined there was no need to have monthly HPC meetings at this time.

6. Work Group Reports

6.1. 1926 Tornado Commemoration Activities

Chair Bowling reported on the status of the 1926 Tornado Commemoration activities and plans.

6.2. Celebrate La Plata day display Town Hall

Chair Bowling reported on the status of the Celebrate La Plata day activities and plans.

6.3. Train Station Museum

Chair Bowling reported on the status of the Train Station Museum and maintenance needs.

7. Matters of Information

7.1. Town Council Liaison Brief

Councilman Guttenberg reported on the board's and commission's training.

7.2. Planning Director Brief

8. Public Comment

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

9. Adjourn

Jane Hobbs moved to adjourn at 12:19 PM.
Moved By: Jane Hobbs, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Passed Unanimously

Submitted by:

Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk