



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
September 19, 2025, 11:00 AM
Regular Meeting
Council Chambers, La Plata Town Hall
305 Queen Anne St.
La Plata MD

PRESENT: Chair Rich Gilpin
Vice Chair Steuart Bowling
Mary Beth Chandler

ABSENT: Jane Hobbs, Paul Guttenberg

TOWN STAFF:

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order

1.1. Call to Order

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

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gilpin led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of minutes from meeting on July 18, 2025.

Chair Gilpin noted that the minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission's meeting on May 16, 2025, had been deferred and were not yet approved.

Vice Chair Bowling moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2025, meeting minutes.

Moved By: Steuart Bowling, seconded by Mary Beth Chandler.

Ayes: Gilpin, Bowling, Chandler

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Hobbs, Councilman Guttenberg

Passed

Vice Chair Bowling moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2025, meeting minutes, with corrections as noted.

Moved By: Steuart Bowling, seconded by Mary Beth Chandler.

Ayes: Gilpin, Bowling, Chandler

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Hobbs, Councilman Guttenberg

Passed

3. Matters of Discussion

3.1. Draft 2025-2030 Historic Preservation Commission Work Plan for Recommendation to Town Council

Director Dooley provided an overview of the work plan development and approval process to date.

Chair Gilpin introduced Anthony Puzzilla, an engaged volunteer.

Director Dooley introduced Crystal Pinter, the new administrative assistant in the Planning Department.

3.2. Train Station Museum Workgroup Report

- Security/Alarm System in Museum
- Security Camera for Caboose

Commissioner Bowling noted that there are continuing maintenance issues with the caboose. The paint is peeling.

Commissioner Chandler noted that the deck poses safety hazards and requires maintenance and repair. The pollinator garden needs maintenance, the planters are empty and unsightly, and the trash is not being removed regularly.

Commissioner Chandler will provide an inventory of maintenance issues at the Train Station Museum to Director Dooley for coordination with the Public Works Department.

3.3. Historic Plaques Workgroup Report

- Status of Schoolhouse Plaque
- Status of Willing Helpers Plaque
- Local Business Plaques

Delivery of the plaque is envisioned for October 2025.

Chair Gilpin is awaiting a response from the Willing Helpers on installation.

There were no updates regarding local business plaques.

3.4. Tornado Observance Workgroup Report

The commission needs guidance on the process for conducting a tornado observance event.

3.5. La Plata Museum Workgroup Report

- La Plata Museum Presentation to Town Council
- Fluorescent Light Replacement by SMECO

Chair Gilpin reported that Councilman Guttenberg indicated that the Historic Preservation Commission's proposal to the Town Council will likely appear on an upcoming Town Council agenda. This proposal will include a "soft opening" of the La Plata Museum and to progress with planning for the future La

Plata Museum.

Chair Gilpin brought Director Dooley's attention to SMECO's light replacement program. Director Dooley forwarded program information to the Public Works Department for consideration.

4. Other Business

4.1. 2026 Gala Participation

Chair Gilpin requested guidance on the feasibility of using the Train Station Museum as the site of a gala related to an upcoming play about the 1926 tornado. Director Dooley provided guidance on the Special Event permit process.

5. Matters of Information

5.1. Town Council Report

Councilman Guttenberg was not present to report.

5.2. Staff Report

- Commission Vacancy
- Proposed La Grange Subdivision (MJSUB 05-2024) and MHT Archaeological Site CH267

Two (2) interviews are scheduled to fill the vacancy on the commission.

The La Grange Subdivision will be before the Planning Commission on October 7, 2025. The Planning Department will ensure that any conditions relevant to historic preservation at this site are addressed.

The Planning Department will work with the commission to gradually increase the commission's activities in a more structured approach.

6. Adjourn

6.1. Adjournment

Chair Gilpin adjourned the meeting at 12:14 PM.

Submitted by:

Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk