

**Historic Sites and Facilities Board City Hall - 1711 Miner
Street, Idaho Springs, CO 80452 Agenda**



Monday, October 13, 2025

Tel: (303) 567-4421 Fax: (303) 567-4955

Video from Meetings are viewable on the City's Website.

**You must join the Zoom Meeting
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86062099875>)
to participate in a meeting remotely.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Agenda Approval**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Move to approve the minutes from July 14th, 2025
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Conflict of Interest**
- 7. General Updates**
 - a. America 250 / Colorado 150 Grant Application Update
 - b. Water Wheel Refurbishment and other site updates
 - c. Next Steps for and Potential Operation of Train Coach
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Old Business**
 - a. Sites and Facilities Signage
- 10. Adjourn**

In-person and remote meeting public attendance and participation instructions:

Participation

- To provide scheduled public comment, either in person or remotely, please fill out and return the Public Comment Form on the City's website. All requests must be submitted to the City Clerk (cityclerk@idahospringsco.com) by 6 p.m. (Six) the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting.
- To provide unscheduled public comment, please join the Zoom Meeting, identify yourself with your full first and last name, and use the "Raise Hand" feature to

indicate your desire to speak.

General Guidelines

- Each public comment, whether scheduled or unscheduled, is limited to three (3) minutes.
- Council typically does not provide feedback during public comment sessions.
- If you would like to provide materials for Council to review along with your Comment, please sign up for Scheduled Public Comment and provide those materials to the City Clerk by the Wednesday Deadline.



**HISTORIC SITES AND FACILITIES BOARD
MINUTES
July 14, 2025**

Due to a recording failure, the first approximately 20 minutes of this meeting were not recorded. These written minutes reflect the recordkeeper's best efforts to document actions taken during those 20 minutes based on independently verifiable information. Details that were not independently verifiable are not included in these minutes.

GENERAL UPDATES

UPDATE ON COACH – City Administrator Andrew Marsh advised the board that the train company that is refurbishing the train have suggested an excursion on the coach for board members probably in September. Mr. Marsh also advised the board that the need for a shelter for the train is a necessity. Chair Adams mentioned that the Georgetown Loop had asked previously to put the coach in use, not only for one excursion but for regular use. Board member Howard suggested that they rent it from the city if they would like to use it. Board member Smith mentioned that she did some research on the original Idaho Springs train depot, and she came across some pictures of the original train depot in Idaho Springs. Ms. Smith suggested that the shelter could look like that old train depot, kind of like a carport.

WATERWHEEL – Public work director Mr. Sigward stated that the water wheel was having maintenance done, including getting it balanced on the bearings so its spins correctly. This has affected the wheels' ability to spin correctly and balanced. There is some new pressure treated wood that has been installed on the waterwheel. City Administrator asked if more work was to be done or if it was just the bearings. Mr. Sigward stated the bearings and some posts. Mr. Sigward mentioned that he was looking into some options for permanent holiday lighting for the waterwheel for special events and special occasions. Board member Smith asked if the lights could be powered with solar maybe? Mr. Sigward stated replacing the axle would require taking the wheel apart. Chair Adams suggested treating the wood with something while the wheel is shut down.

LIBRARY - Mr. Sigward stated that PW has done some work at the Library, he is looking for someone to come paint the trim of the library, the same color as it is. Chair Adams stated that is in the plan, to re-paint the library. Mr. Sigward stated there is a potential leak from the plume of the heater of the chimney. Mr. Sigward has someone coming out to look at that to see if there is something they can do to the chimney to stop that leak. This could cause water damage to the inside if its not fixed in the near future. Chair Adams asked Mr. Marsh if anything had been done to the interior damage. Mr. Marsh stated that the city is going to take care of that as it was caused by the exterior leak. The Hoehns visited recently and stated the leak seems to be corrected and the next step is to begin the repair to the west wall. Mr. Marsh stated the wait was to ensure there was no more moisture coming in.

CEMETERY SIGN- Mr. Sigward stated that there seems to be some confusion on this. The woodworking shop is doing this sign, and he is not sure where they are at, but they need approval if they are ok to go with the cemetery design. Board member Howard mentioned that she just wanted the space on the sign for the plaque, she did not design the sign itself. Chair Adams asked Mr. Sigward is he was looking for action on this and she passed around a picture of the sign. Board member Howard stated she wanted to make sure there was room for the brass plaque on the sign that's being created. Board member Smith asked for the dimension of the sign, Mr. Davenport stated it says 11.5 feet wide and about 7 something feet high. Mr. Marsh asked if Mr. Sigward still had the old sign, Mr. Sigward stated it was at the old shop. Mr. Marsh stated that the direction for the damaged sign was to build a new one. Mr. Marsh suggested that the board look at the old sign and board member Howard stated she had a picture and that the old sign is in pieces. Mr. Marsh stated he wanted direction on what the new sign should look like and get the new sign started. Mr. Marsh advised board member Howard that they could find a place to put the brass plaque on the new sign. Chair Adams wanted to put signage on the next agenda as an item so the board could have a discussion on the design.

Chair Adams asked Mr. Sigward to take a drill to the Steve Canyon Statue to tighten up the brass plaque as its not fully connected.

OLD BUSINESS – Sign decisions – The board was to come up with wording for the signage. Chair Adams stated when she was at the council meeting that adopted the plan, the question was what the next item they would be working on. Chair Adams mentioned the City Logo, that it may be more complicated or expensive. Chair Adams mentioned that Board member Smith has the train and that may be difficult. Board member Smith mentioned the QR codes for people to get more information. There is a lot of background information on the coach and the engine, like where it was made, where it ran, that she has interest in. So the question is how much of the information should be on the sign and what should be listed through the QR code as additional information. Board member Smith brought up maybe shadow box's instead of QG codes to allow for more information to be read. Chair Adams mentioned that these days, QR codes are the way of obtaining more information. Chair Adams asked the board if they wanted brass plaques? Board member Davenport stated that the brass plaques are good for now as they are consistent and probably the least expensive. The board decided to go with brass plaques. Chair Adams stated the next decision is to use the logo or to use Idaho Springs Historic Site? Chair Adams mentioned re-creating the city seal could be difficult as there are many lines and it may become quite expensive. Mr. Davenport mentioned instead of the logo, it could just be the text stating it's an Idaho Springs Historic Site and keeping it just wording simplifies this. Chair Adams asked if the board wants to keep the signs that are currently up and just incorporate the Idaho Springs Historic Site onto those signs, or should there be all brand-new signs to keep them all looking the same. Board member Howard mentioned having a little addition to the existing signs stating Idaho Springs Historic Site, and that would keep the signs almost the same, from the old to the new ones. The board agreed to have the wording state "Idaho Springs Historic Site". Chair Adams stated there is clear consensus. Board member Davenport suggested the wording includes "City Of". The final wording has been decided to be "Idaho Springs Historic Site" and will not have City Of. Chair Adams mentioned at the last meeting that each board member was supposed to come up with some wording for each of their sites plaques. Board member Smith stated that she has found some conflicting information, and she is working thru it to make sure she has accurate information and whittling it down so it can fit on the sign. Board member Bechtel stated that a lot of these sites have a lot of information. The QR codes will not be placed onto the brass plaques themselves but as its own little sign. Board member Davenport asked about the signs that are attached to the big boulders, as that's easy to attach signage to, versus a sign pole which will look like a no parking sign. Chair Adams stated that the board needs to focus on what each sign is going to say. Davenport stated that it can be done with Word or Excel as well as the size needed and the font. Chair Adams asked the board what they think of the cemetery sign wording and where it should be attached. Board member Davenport stated he liked the wording, as did board member Smith and Bechtel. Chair Adams stated that additional information can be expanded on the QR code link so people can read more about each site.

Chair Adams stated at the next meeting there will be wording for the powder house sign, and City Hall. Board member Davenport mentioned that the minutes spoke about getting a sign up. Chair Adams suggested that board member Smith come up with at least 3 sign wordings and get them to Dylan so it can be added into the next packet. Chair Adams asked Mr. Marsh about the proposed park at the powder house, and if there had been any discussion about this. Mr. Marsh stated not that he was aware of, and Ms. Adams expressed importance of getting with the property owners before the city advertises that park. Chair Adams asked staff to put up a Historic Site sign with an arrow with some quick and dirty signage about the historic powder house. Board member Davenport mentioned that because of the location of that powder house, up Soda Creek Road, that there could be a need for at least 4 signs in order to get the visitors to the park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. Next meeting will be October 13th, 2025 at 9:00 am.



City of Idaho Springs
1711 Miner Street
P.O. Box 907
Idaho Springs, CO, 80452-0907
303.567.4421 | (f) 303.567-4955
www.idahospringsco.com

October 13, 2025

To: City Council

From: Community Development Planner Dylan Graves

Topic: America 250 / Colorado 150 Anniversaries – Historical Grant Opportunity

For the FY 2025 Supplemental Grant Round, CLGs are eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in no-match grant funding for engagement, outreach, and educational projects that align with the America 250/Colorado 150 anniversaries in 2026.

The grant funding can be used for projects that celebrate the United States' and Colorado's histories and enable all Coloradans to participate in the anniversaries. History Colorado would like to undertake diverse, imaginative efforts to remember our shared past and imagine a unified future.

Grant Amount:

\$25,000 with no required match

Grant Deadlines:

Grant Application Available - September 15, 2025

Drafts Due - October 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Applications Due - October 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Award Notifications - January 5, 2026 (anticipated)

Projects Completed - June 1, 2027

Grant Idea:

Create an interactive, multimedia historical tour experience for Idaho Springs residents and visitors commemorating the city's historical sites, shared histories, and evolution from important tribal meeting place, to mining outpost with rich railroading history, to early interstate automobile tourism, to today. As part of the 250/150 celebrations, part of the funding could be used for guided tours, but the long-term goal would be to create a self-guided interactive tour that people can access from the Visit Idaho Springs website and would include photos, videos, stories from locals, etc., in addition to the history of each site.

The Historical Society created a basic walking tour in the past with pamphlets, but we have not made any major attempts to highlight specifics of the city's history to promote tourism and visitation to town (at least recently). People know that Idaho Springs has a beautiful downtown historic district but may not be aware of all the ways that the city is special, both to the region and to the state.

Idaho Springs is an important part of Colorado's history. There could be one tour that takes people to different important sites around town, or multiple tours for different themes. Potential themes could include:

- Native American History
- Railroad
- Mining
- Tourism and recreation
- Etc.

The Historical Society has vast quantities of historical information, including narratives on various sites, photographs, and stories from locals and visitors over time. The Historical Society has indicated a willingness to help.

This would help celebrate the anniversaries occurring in 2026 but could also have benefits well into the future since it is something that would be available on the website for years to come. It could also be used to help fund historic site markers at the city's sites and facilities (brass plaques that you see around town).

The other potential benefit of this grant is that it will highlight the city's preservation efforts and show how important preservation is to maintain the city's charm and character. Using examples from around the city – powder house, Project Support building, library, coach, Hose House No. 2 – we can showcase the great work being done around the city.

Key Deliverables:

- Visit Idaho Springs website portal that houses all interactive and multimedia tour information
- Tour signage at historical sites (small placard with QR code and basic info, maybe?)
- Pamphlets/marketing materials
- Guided tours at important events throughout 2026

Key Stakeholders:

- City's Sites and Facilities Board and Historic Preservation Review Commission (historical information, potential tour guides)
- Historical Society (historical information, potential tour guides)
- CCMRD (potential source for guides / guided tour logistics)
- BCPB (promotion of the tours, use of Visit Idaho Springs website as clearinghouse for information)
- City residents with stories to tell

Potential Budget Items:

- Website design
- Signage at different locations around town (design and construction)
- Guides

- Marketing materials
- Staff time

Projects previously funded:

Lyons - Historic Preservation Outreach Materials (2025)

Saguache - Adobe Workshop (2023)

Otero County - 3rd Grade Workbook and Teacher Manual (2023)

Steamboat Springs - Education, Engagement, and Outreach Strategy and Training (2023)

Golden - Indigenous Connections - Site Visits (2023)

Cortez - Walking Tour Podcasts (2018)

Aurora - SOI Standards Workshop (2018)

Trinidad - Donovan Rypkema Workshop (2017)

Otero County - Section 106 Workshop (2017)

Otero County - Historic Preservation Brochure and Section 106 Training (2016)

Lake City - Historic Preservation Brochure (2016)

Greeley - Bob Yapp Presentations (2015)

Black Hawk - Historic Wood Window Workshop (2015)

Pueblo - Videography project included as part of Eiler Neighborhood Survey (2013)

Telluride - Demolition by Neglect Handbook (2011)

Request for Direction: Does City Council support applying for this up to \$25,000, no match historic preservation CLG grant?

Historic Sites Signage – based on submittals from S&F Board Members and the July 14, 2025, Meeting

This is a summary of conversations to date about the signage needed at each historic site and facility in the city. All sites will need a plaque that states “Idaho Springs Historic Site”. This will be a simple plaque with just that text.

At the July 14 meeting, it was decided that each of the sites that needed new signage would get brass plaques to be consistent. Staff investigated pricing and talking with a local vendor, they mentioned we could get true brass plaques or could get aluminum plaques that “look” brass for far less.

The Board discussed adding QR codes to each site, but as their own small signs rather than as part of the informational plaque. City staff will purchase along with all plaques, once finalized. Staff would like direction about where we want the QR code to send people. Should we create a landing page on the city’s website with information on all the sites; should we send people to the Preservation Plan itself; or somewhere else? Staff can plan to build out the website ahead of the next quarterly Sites and Facilities meeting for review.

Library

The existing plaque’s wording is sufficient.

Waterwheel

The existing plaque’s wording is sufficient.

Jackson Monument

The existing plaque’s wording is sufficient.

Bryan Hose House

The existing plaque’s wording is sufficient.

Hose House No. 2

The existing plaque’s wording is sufficient.

Steve Canyon

The existing plaque’s wording is sufficient, but may need to be rehabilitated slightly since at least one of the signs is loose.

City Hall

The existing plaque's wording is sufficient.

Arrastra

Arrastras were used in small mining operations to crush small amounts of ore. A horse was attached to the horizontal bar and as it circled around the base the large rock attached to the bar would be pulled along to crush the ore. It is believed this arrastra came from a local site.

Veterans Memorial

The memorial was constructed by the community after World War II in honor of local veterans who served during the war.

Cannon

The original cannon was presented to the city by representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic in the early 1900s. After over 100 years, the cannon's deterioration eventually brought it close to collapse. With the proceeds of a fundraising campaign by the Idaho Springs Historical Society, the cannon was shipped to Pennsylvania where a new carriage was constructed and the original barrel mounted. It was returned to its former location in 2015.

Cemetery

This location of the present Idaho Springs Cemetery is the third cemetery site since the city was settled. The first interment was at the location of 7th Avenue and High Street in 1860. In 1863, a small plot of land on Colorado Boulevard between 6th and 7th Avenues became the town's official cemetery but filled up quickly. The city next purchased a piece of property in 1873 located about a half mile south of town on Chicago Creek. A high-water table caused problems, so higher land was purchased and became the current cemetery property. In August of 1881, a devastating flood destroyed what was left of the Colorado Boulevard cemetery. Most of the grave markers were swept down the canyon. Following clean-up efforts, graves in the old cemetery were relocated to the present location.

Central Hose House:

The Idaho Springs' first fire company was formed in 1878. The Central Hose house was built for Idaho Springs Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. The largest of the three hose houses, the Central Hose House served not only as the home for the city's first hook and ladder cart, but as a meeting place for the firemen from all the city's independent hose companies as well as for other social functions. When the fire department was reorganized and the independent hose companies consolidated, the Central Hose House remained the center for the city's firefighting efforts. In

1925, the original building burned down and was replaced with the current structure. When the fire department relocated to the Colorado Blvd location in the 1960s, the Central Hose House was used as the city's maintenance building and later used for fire department storage. Restoration was completed in 2010 and re-dedicated as a self-guided firefighting history museum.

Engine 60 & Coach 70

There are existing wooden signs, but we would like to increase the amount of signage and information since we will have a lot of space available for signage once the train cover is built and have a lot of history to share. Good information is in the preservation plan and there is information about the restoration that could be shared, as well.

Powder House

The Powder House was built sometime between 1884 and 1908. A powder house provided a place to store explosives for mining. Because of the potential danger from the explosives, powder houses were constructed in isolated locations.

This structure is located at the east end of the Gardner Placer mining claim. Placer miners searched for valuable minerals exposed as ore in stream beds. Once that ore was collected, miners used the explosives to help sink shafts to extract ore veins from below grade.

The Powder House is a vernacular style mining structure built from local materials. Its character is defined by its stone rubble walls, low-sloping roof supported by exposed roof framing, wood floor, and steel strap hinges supporting a heavy steel door.

- The powder house will also need signage on Soda Creek Road and Little Bear Road directing people to the site. Staff thought that the signage could read "Historic Site" with an arrow, matching existing similar city signage, if that is suitable to the Board.

Blue Ribbon Tunnel

Below is the information from the Preservation Plan. Could this be used for the plaque?

The Blue Ribbon Tunnel provided access to the Blue Ribbon Springs, producing cold mineral water. The water was bottled and sold with claims of curative properties and for many years the tunnel was open to the public allowing local

citizens and tourists to fill containers directly from the source. Due to public liability and health concerns, the tunnel entrance was fenced off, but access was not completely blocked. With the coming interstate planned to be built so near the tunnel site, in the mid-1970s access was completely and permanently blocked.