

CITY OF PACIFIC
Meramec Valley Historical Society Meeting Minutes
300 Hoven Dr
Pacific, MO 63069
March 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Call to order: The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Dennis Oliver.

Present for the Meramec Valley Historical Society: Chairman Dennis Oliver, Jeff Titter, Bonnie Post, Lori Perdew.

Absent: Mike Gallagher, Jeanne Bandermann.

City Staff: Tourism Director O'Malley, Alderman Stewart, Building Department Clerk Bauguess, City Administrator Litterell.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mike Gallagher, seconded by Lori Perdew to approve the minutes with corrections. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result.

Public Participation

New Business-

Old Business-

A. Plaque update

Tourism Director O'Malley explained that due to current budget considerations being reviewed by the City Administrator, funding for the project has been removed from the budget for the time being. She asked the board to review the plaque proofs so they would be ready if funding is restored later this year or if the project moves forward next year. Ms. O'Malley noted that she is correcting the date for Pacific Bank to 1909 and removing the word opened from the plaques, as some plaques put up currently include it. She stated that the photos had been updated, including changing the name to Quonset Hut for Grace Catering and replacing the photo of the Birdsong Building. Chairman Dennis Olive asked for clarification regarding the Birdsong Building, noting that while the building housed Birdsong and that it was not entirely occupied by Pacific Bank, is that correct. Ms. O'Malley confirmed that is correct. Jeff Titter explained that the building to the east in the photograph, labeled Hallmark Cards, originally housed the bank, while the western section was used as a store. He stated that at some point the Citizens Bank purchased Pacific Bank, the locations were switched and the bank later moved to the corner portion of the building. Chairman Oliver asked whether the board may consider placing a second plaque on the other portion of the building in the future and whether the same photograph would be used. Mr. Titter stated that his preference would be to install two separate plaques and to use different historical photographs of the two buildings. He noted that due to time constraints and cost considerations, the decision had been made to proceed with one plaque. Jeff Titter asked for an update on the project and budget status since the previous meeting. City Administrator Litterell explains that in the process of working on a possible budget that has reductions for whole city. He stated that he could not provide a reason why the item was not addressed at the last meeting. He mentions that the matter has been sent to the Administration Committee for review, after which it will be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Titter asked City Administrator Litterell if everything

out that we had in our budget been cut. City Administrator Litterell stated that he would need to review the records but recalled that the only reductions recommended so far involved the plaques. Mr. Titter asked City Administrator Litterell on how much needs to be cut from the budget. City Administrator Litterell stated that the city is working with a \$4 million budget, with some road projects postponed to next year. He emphasized that the situation is delicate but assured that city services will not be reduced and there is no need to panic. Lori Predew recommended that the committee consider organizing a fundraiser to support the project. Mr. Titter asks Ms. O'Malley how much did we have in our plaque project. Ms. O'Malley answered \$7500. Ms. O'Malley asked City Administrator Litterell if the budget reduction for the plaques also included the map and pamphlet and if it did she did not want to spend time working on them if the project would be delayed. City Administrator Litterell stated that he did not recall but he can look at that tomorrow and an update on whether you need to move forward with it or not. Bonnie Post asked Ms. O'Malley if the quilt trail map was still planned and if the pamphlet was the map for the plaques. Mrs. O'Malley answers yes, for those plaques. Bonnie Post asks Ms. O'Malley if there was a way to combine the two. Ms. O'Malley stated that the quilt trail currently has a simple paper listing addresses and that they are working on a smaller version with pictures. She explains that the quilt trail is intended to be temporary for a few years, while the plaques would be permanent. Ms. O'Malley asked the committee whether they were considering two separate plaques or proceeding with one plaque, and whether two photographs would be needed. Ms. O'Malley stated that her goal is to have the materials prepared so they are ready when approval is given to move forward with the project. Discussion Followed. The Board decided to proceed with two plaques for the Birdsong Building, one recognizing Pacific Bank 1892 with an appropriate photograph and the second recognizing Saunders 1892 with photograph. The Board also agreed to remove the word opened from the new set of plaques.

Reports

A. Director Report-

Tourism Director O'Malley attached her monthly report to the meeting packet. Ms. O'Malley reported on several upcoming events and activities at the Red Cedar Inn and related tourism events. She mentions that the hallway in Red Cedar is being updated to celebrate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of America with historical displays and a photo opportunity. She mentions that several April events, including tour buses visiting the site on April 2, a car club visits April 18, and a Route 66 Association meeting. She stated that she has been invited to speak at several upcoming events regarding the history of Route 66 and Pacific, including the MML Dinner on April 15 and an event at St. Paul's in Wildwood. She also noted that a car club will be visiting on April 25. She also reported that she will attend the Route 66 Centennial kickoff in Springfield from April 29 through May 3, where a Pacific-themed float will be entered in the televised parade to help promote the community and the Red Cedar Inn. She reported record attendance and sales over the past three years, noting that March has already started strong with over 400 visitors in the first week. She stated that Red Cedar Inn has recently been featured in several publications, including Missouri Life Magazine, a Route 66 edition, Missouri Traveler Magazine, and the Top Entertainment Guide of 2026, and that most of these features were not paid placements.

B. Aldermen Report-

Alderman Stewart stated that she had no report.

Miscellaneous

Bonnie Post asked Tourism Director O'Malley about the scheduled speaker dates for the year at Red Cedar. Ms. O'Malley responded that the schedule is still being finalized but noted that John Robinson is scheduled to speak on May 14 and Kathrine Kratky on July 9 regarding Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Franklin County. Mrs. Post asked Ms. O'Malley if there was a date for bits and pieces quilt group to do the display. Ms. O'Malley responded that she is working with the organizers and noted that there have been some changes to the event. She stated that it was originally planned to begin on July 1 but may be moved earlier due to a potential motor tour traveling through the area on June 22. She added that she is attempting to contact the organizers of the motor tour to confirm the visit on June 22. She stated that if it confirmed, she will make the building will be open and displays prepared for visitors. Mrs. Post ask Ms. O'Malley for clarification on the date. Ms. O'Malley answers it will either be June 22 or July 1. She stated that the display will not be received until approximately June 17, as it will be coming from Springfield after the even finishes on June 15. Mrs. Post ask Ms. O'Malley will it take up the bigger part of display. Ms. O'Malley confirmed that it will. Ms. O'Malley Mentions that July 12 plan on doing the exhibit reception. Mrs. Post ask Ms. O'Malley if she has the Route 66 road stencil. Ms. O'Malley confirmed that she does, that Chris Fowler has not completed it yet because he is waiting for better weather. Mrs. Post ask Ms. O'Malley if she has any more information about the big boy. Ms. O'Malley responded that she does not.

Adjournment

Motion made by Jeff Titter, seconded by Lori Perdew. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result.

Next meeting will be April 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.