



***Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board***  
*A Certified Local Government (CLG)*  
*Program representing four governing bodies:*

*City of Billings*  
*City of Laurel*

*Yellowstone County*  
*Crow Tribe*

**MEETING MINUTES**

*August 18, 2020*

*Via Zoom*

*2825 3rd Avenue North*

**Members Present** –Evan Bruce, Keith Edgerton, and Kevin Nelson

**Members Absent** – Blain Fandrich, Becky Jeter, and Sue Mueller

**Staff Present** –Lora Mattox, Tam Rodier, Kevin Kooistra and Cecelia Gravinsky

**Others Present** – Zachary Garhart

**Minutes** - Keith, seconded by Evan, approved the minutes of the February meeting on a motion.

**Public Comment** – No public comment.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Zachary Garhart Member Application:** Zach is the Assistant Director at the Yellowstone County Museum. Asked about requirements for membership, Lora clarified that the Ordinance specifies that At-Large members should have some historic preservation knowledge, whether it be museum experience, architecture, photography, or general historic preservation knowledge. Zach meets this criterion. Keith motions to recommend Zach to the YHPB and send that recommendation to the County Commissioners, Evan seconds. Approved.

**CDBG Review – 910 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street:** Tam Rodier provides an overview of this property that is scheduled for rehabilitation using CDBG funds. Work includes the installation of a front step handrail, siding, trim, eaves-soffits-fascia, roof, windows and overhead garage door. The existing roof is cedar shake shingles; Kevin states that it might be appropriate to maintain that roof profile. The question is whether the board feels this structure is eligible for the National Register and should be preserved. Many of the existing features have been altered and after discussion, the board determines that this property is not eligible for the National Register and the use of federal CDBG funds would be appropriate. Keith motions that the rehab of this property move forward as presented, Evan seconds. Approved.

**Granny's Attic Update:** Lora provided an update on the Granny's Attic project proposed housing project. MRM was invited to submit a full application for the Housing Tax Credits. As a reminder, the YHPB met with MRM and their architect, Allen Rapacz about the demolition of the Yegen Block building for the purposes of

providing parking for additional housing that MRM is proposing at the existing shelter. As concession for the loss of that building to the Old Town Historic District, the YHPB agreed to support the application with an agreement that some type of mitigation of that location would be included in the housing project. Preferably by leaving some portion of the existing structure (corner piece or similar) to use as an interpretive site with site and district information. The Western Heritage Center has completed photographing the exterior and is just waiting for a time to get inside the building for photograph documentation.

**National Register Updates:** Lora provide an update on several National Register projects:

1. McKinley Elementary: The draft nomination was submitted to the state for their review and edits. It is anticipated that this nomination will be presented to the State NR Board in January 2021.
2. Billings Mausoleum and Pioneer Park: This project will also go to the State board in January.
3. Fratt-Link House: This property will be reviewed at the September NR Board meeting.

Lora recommends that the Western Heritage Center look at beginning the National Register nomination for Riverside Park now that McKinley and the Mausoleum is wrapping up. Evan mentions that Nick, Laurel Planner may have begun a nomination. Lora will check to see if this is true and if there is anything we can do to help.

**Consultant Report:** Attached at the end of the minutes.

**Board Roundtable:**

- Kevin Kooistra: Since we had to cancel this year's Roundtable, we still have the awards for Lynelle Peterson and A & E, should we deliver those? After discussion, it was decided that Kevin would deliver the awards and take some photos.
- Keith talked about classes starting up at MSU-B and the hope that protocols in place will work to keep in-person lessons continuing.
- Kevin N discussed their continued work on Romney Hall in Bozeman and that the Alberta Bair project is starting to wrap up.

The next YHPB meeting TBD.

## **Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board (YHPB)**

Western Heritage Center (WHC) Consultant Report

**Cecelia Gavinsky, Kevin Kooistra, and Lauren Hunley– June 30, 2020**

### Various Projects

- ✓ Kooistra working on the McKinley National Register application as the July deadline approaches. First draft sent out in early July to Lora Mattox and Kate Hampton and John Boughton at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.
- ✓ Kevin and Cecelia interviewed Bill Dutcher, manager and events coordinator at Metra Park. He spoke about the future demolition of the Horse Track and its history. His positive outlooks and original family ties to Billings made for a great oral history. His oral history is being transcribed.
- ✓ Gavinsky talking to a private donor about collection of historic home photographs from Billings, including historical homes in the North Elevation and near the Moss Mansion. Discussed accessioning, scanning, researching, and other options for the collection (the collection would be a great addition for historic preservation research).
- ✓ Cecelia researching National Register application process and styles of architecture commonly found in Montana.
- ✓ Kevin organized photographs of past award winners of the YHPB for Facebook. When this is completed, we'll get it on YHPB Facebook.

### Research

Research requests of properties done in June include:

**Address: 404 N 30th Street / The Commons 1882 History**

## **Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board (YHPB)**

### Western Heritage Center (WHC) Consultant Report for July 2020

Cecelia Gavinsky and Kevin Kooistra

#### **Historic Preservation**

Gavinsky reached out to the Montana Men's Rescue Mission in order to photograph and document the inside of the Granny's attic building (Yegen block). This has been the fourth attempt to reach out to them.

McKinley School nomination was sent out for first draft review.

Metra Park horse barn research continues

Gavinsky working with Laurel to explore the Riverside Park prisoners of War sign, placed by Joyce Jensen and the Yellowstone Historical Society. Joyce is recovering from hip surgery.

Lauren looked at domain names for YHPB. [walkhistoricbillings.com](http://walkhistoricbillings.com)

#### **Research Requests**

Topics include:

- Alkali Creek and naming of the creek
- Billings Banner and Lumber Company on First Avenue South.
- Several residential historic homes, including 129 Clark.
- Worked with H. Rafael Chacón and Jim McDonald in Missoula, who are working at created a list of private homes influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright. Sent materials from North Elevation research and contact names.