



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

December 15, 2020

Via Zoom

2825 3rd Avenue North

Members Present – Blain Fandrich, Zachary Garhart, Becky Jeter, Keith Edgerton, and Kevin Nelson

Members Absent – Evan Bruce, and Sue Mueller

Staff Present –Lora Mattox, Kevin Kooistra and Cecelia Gravinsky

Others Present – John Boughton and Kate Hampton

Call to Order

Public Comment – No public comment.

Minutes – Keith motioned, seconded by Zach to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Motion approved.

Old Business:

Pioneer Park National Register Nomination:

Discussion continued from last month regarding the nomination for Pioneer Park. Kate Hampton and John Boughton from SHPO joined the meeting to offer clarifications or provide discussion. Blain started the discussion with the comment that he may have taken a different approach with the nomination with less contributing features. He states that overall the nomination was written very well and that he has little concern overall. He may have added this as an addendum to the North Elevation District as contributing to the district rather than a stand-alone property. Some features of the park would be considered non-contributing such as the wading pool. There was also discussion about extending the period of significance to 1972 to match the master plan. John thinks this can be done with little justification.

Kevin Kooistra mentions that the Western Heritage Center has been working with SHPO to update dates and make some suggestions on the narrative.

Becky asks if changing out wading pool for a new splash pad will change nomination. No as the wading pool is non-contributing.

Blain asks John and Kate that if the City wanted to rehabilitate the Fire Station, could historic features be re-introduced? He was thinking of something similar to the Maverick Fire Station. John says, absolutely yes!

Kate asks that we keep asking Parks and the City to look for Dorothy Grays master plan for the park. Lora will send a note over asking them to keep looking.

Keith motions to recommend approval of the submittal of the Pioneer Park National Register Nomination to the State National Register review board, seconded by Kevin. Approved.

New Business: None

Other Business:

Consultant Report:

Cecilia and Kevin shared the following from the Western Heritage Center:

- Contact was made with Lynelle from Ethnoscience and A&E for the YHPB Roundtable Awards for 2020. Both were very pleased and excited.
- Riverside nomination is progressing, Ann Manning and Michelle Caron are working on it including the architectural descriptions. Blain mentions that when he was at Laurel City Hall during the Exxon oil spill, he saw original blueprints for the park. He suggests contacting Laurel city hall.
- The demolition of the house on North 31st was missed, happened quick!
- Worked with SHPO on the Pioneer Park nomination and retook photos for McKinley School.
- Took photos of the Metra Grandstands before they were demolished. Also documented some of the horse barns that are scheduled for demolition.

Historic Preservation Officer Report: Nothing more to add

Lora reported the following:

Board Roundtable:

- Kevin Nelson reported that Alberta Bair is trying to be done, not much of the original historic features are left, however there is some of the original art deco brick work exposed on the interior.
- Blain mentioned that while surveying for MDT at 1st and Main they did find an older warehouse (1929-30) from the Yale Oil Company to recommend for listing. Also, there are several Siberian Elm trees along the original entrance to the Metra and along the Highway 87 side that will be recommended for listing as contributing to MetraPark.
- Kevin asks if there are any board openings. Lora had submitted an application to the county for a county position but never heard back, she will check. The only other opening is for a representation from the Crow Tribe.

Future Agenda Items:

Next YHPB Meeting: TBD