



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

January 19, 2021

Via Zoom

2825 3rd Avenue North

Members Present – Blain Fandrich, Zachary Garhart, Becky Jeter, Evan Bruce, and Brenna Moloney

Members Excused – Kevin Nelson and Keith Edgerton

Staff Present –Lora Mattox, Kevin Kooistra and Cecelia Gravinsky

Others Present –

Call to Order

Public Comment – No public comment.

Minutes – Evan motioned, seconded by Brenna to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Motion approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

FY21 CLG Grant: Lora gave an overview of this years grant application. Once again, SHPO is allocating \$6,000 to full time CLG's. This is good as it gives an opportunity to provide the Western Heritage Center a larger monthly stipend. Evan motion to submit the grant application as presented, Zach seconded. Approved.

2021 YHPB Work Plan: This time of year, the YHPB reviews and updates the annual work plan. The board completed several of the items in the last year that have been on the work plan for a couple of years. Some projects the board would like to explore and include are:

- Complete the nomination for Riverside Park;
- Explore other Yellowstone County, Billings, Laurel, and Crow cultural and historic resources for listing on the National Register;
- Explore platforms to update and reactivate the Electronic Downtown Walking Tour;
- Provide education opportunities through public presentations.

The board will discuss further at the next meeting.

Electronic Downtown Walking Tour: The existing electronic tour is broken and needs to be updated. The original tour was developed back in 2010 and technology has definitely improved since then. The Western

Heritage Center recently implemented a program call ThinkLink, this platform allows for a photograph of a item/location and the ability to add a icon to access additional information regarding the item. WHC will look at modifying this program for use in the walking tour. If feasible, the HPO has discretionary funds to use for historic preservation. The WHC and HPO will develop a budget for this project.

Other Business:

2021 YHPB Roundtable: The board discussed the potential of holding the annual Roundtable this year with Covid-19. Kevin suggests delaying until the fall, possible in October. This may allow enough time to all for Covid to start reducing with the availability of vaccines. Potentially look at an outdoor venue. One suggestion was holding the event at Pioneer Park with the recent nomination and then encourage a walking tour from there to McKinley School, also a recent nomination, through the North Elevation Historic District. Blain suggests announcing the awards now to allow plenty of time to get nominations.

Consultant Report:

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

- Completed various National Register work including McKinley photographs and presenting the nomination to the State Board.
- Finalizing the Billings Mausoleum nomination with photos and measurements. The information has been sent to John Boughton at SHPO. This nomination should be reviewed by the State Board this spring.
- Cecelia is working on the Riverside nomination and WHC plan to visit the site Wednesday for photographs and architecture review for descriptions. Leslie Gilmore is helping with descriptions and we are very appreciative of the help!
- Continue to answer research requests from the public.

Historic Preservation Officer Report: Nothing more to add

Lora reported the following:

Board Roundtable:

- Zach announces that Yellowstone County Museum archives and artifacts have been moved to their new building located on King Avenue East. If the board is interested in a tour, he would be happy to oblige.

Future Agenda Items:

2021 Work Plan

Electronic Downtown Walking Tour

2021 YHPB Roundtable

Next YHPB Meeting: February 16, 2021