



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, 2021
Moss Mansion

Members Present – Becky Jeter, Blain Fandrich, Zachary Garhart, Evan Bruce, Brenna Moloney, Linda Lien, Kevin Nelson and Keith Edgerton

Members Excused –

Staff Present –Lora Mattox and Kevin Kooistra

Others Present – None

Call to Order and Welcome

Public Comment – No public comment.

Minutes – The October minutes were approved on a motion by Keith, seconded by Evan Approved.

Old Business:

Electronic Downtown Walking Tour – After discussion with Kevin from the Western Heritage Center, it was decided to now apply for a Montana History Foundation grant this year. WHC is still reviewing using ThingLink and Lora will continue to explore other communities and their platform. More on this is found in the Consultant’s Report.

New Business: None

Other Business:

Consultant Report – Kevin Kooistra reported the following activities by the WHC:

Research requests (sample)

- Working with Denise Bohlman, City Clerk, to address 500 boxes of documents stored at City Hall. They are moving in 2023 to the Stillwater building. Suggestion to visit Butte Silver Butte Archives to assist them on their decision making process.
- Photographs sent to High Plains Architects of the Monet Carlo building on the corner of N 28th and First Avenue North. 2824 1st Ave North.
- 2154 Burnstead Drive research.
- 2019 Montana Avenue research.
- 3838 State Avenue research.
- Sturm and Drake building downtown, at 14 N 29th.
- Invited to photograph new Burger Dive location on Minnesota Avenue.

Demolition Documentation: Whalen Tire site on 1st Avenue North to develop of a five-story 32-unit two-bed apartment building located at 2316 1st Ave North.

Demolition Documentation: Home 815 North 31st by McKinley (torn down in late Nov)

Demolition Documentation: Cecelia Gavinsky and Kevin Kooistra spent several hours documenting the three floors of the Yegen Block on Minnesota Avenue slated for demolition in January of 2022. Over 500 photographs were taken with labels for images. They are stored in the digital shared drive demolition folder for YHPB at the Western Heritage Center



815 North 31st



Yegen Block Building (Granny's Closet) on Minnesota Avenue



NATIONAL REGISTER NOTES

Riverside Park, Laurel: Staff has a working draft for the National Register nomination.

YHPB ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE

Scheduled for Tuesday 8:30-10:00AM, March 15, 2022. Question about nominations for projects, since the Board hosted the YHPB Roundtable on September 22, 2021. Nominations for Eugene Carroll and Best Practices and Roundtable announcement will go out in early January, 2022. Nominations to be accepted until March 1, 2022.

FACTOR EARTH and THINGLINK

Two potential ways to begin re-creating or downtown historic buildings survey and history / downtown walking tour. Kooistra will do more research, but here are some basics. There are questions of, who is the audience we're targeting, the short term and long-term costs, sustainability and ability to make updates (coding), how many web sites can run the program, who creates the images (360 for Factor Earth), and how do we market for the program we select.

Lauren and Kevin will present more findings at January 18 meeting.

Factor Earth: Has a \$3,500 start-up cost for its 360 degree 3D web based program. They use Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) and a program would generally appeal to folks 30 and under. You have to stand on the spot and point your device toward the building. We would also consider start-up costs for gathering photos and research, as well as the annual fee for running the program.

ThingLink: Western Heritage Center already paid the \$1,500 start up for this program that we use for our on-line exhibits. We can also embed the program, a 2D map, on several web sites. Folks would look at a map and click on the building of interest, similar to what we had before. We can also do some audio and video components. For another \$1,500, plus some start-up costs for gathering photos and research, we would have an additional three years of service and maintenance (2023-2025).

GRANT CONSIDERATION

The Montana Department of Commerce Announces the Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG) is open! Deadline to apply is February 28, 2022. Kevin Kooistra signed up for Community Development Division MHPG Application Workshop on January 12, 2022 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm. Grants are available for public and private entities to support the preservation of historic sites, historical societies, or history museums; this includes “brick-and-mortar” improvements to address various infrastructure, maintenance, building code, security, climate control, or fire protection issues. Funding decisions will be made during the 2023 January legislative session.

HPO Report – Lora Mattox stated that the first half CLG funds have been received. Also, a reminder that the board will have 2 openings to fill since this is Blain and Kevin’s last meeting. Finally, Lora presented Blain and Kevin with Certificates of Appreciation for their generous support of the board. Kevin and Blain both thanked the board and enjoyed their time on the board. Blain also gave one piece of advice moving forward, the board should implement a process in the Certificate of Appropriateness and demolitions that includes developing HABS/HAER photographs.

Board Roundtable – None

Future Agenda Items: Certificate of Appropriateness – Burger Dive/Western Bar and the election of a Chair/Vice Chair

Next YHPB Meeting: January 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.