



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 18, 2022
1st Floor Conference Room
Planning Division – Miller Building

Members Present – Becky Jeter, Zachary Garhart, Evan Bruce, Linda Lien, and Keith Edgerton

Members Excused – Brenna Moloney

Staff Present –Lora Mattox, Tam Rodier and Kevin Kooistra

Others Present – None

1. Call to Order and Welcome

a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – Keith Edgerton was nominated as Chair, Evan Bruce as Vice-Chair. Unanimously approved.

b. Public Comment – No public comment.

c. Comments on items not on the agenda – No public comment.

2. Minutes – The December minutes were accepted as amended. Corrected: Board will not seek a grant from the Montana History Foundation this year for the electronic walking tour.

3. Old Business: None

4. New Business:

a. Motion: North Park – Use of CDBG-CV Funds to install wifi at the park. The project will also remove the 1980's concrete restroom and replace with a new facility.

b. Motion: Comanche Park – Use of CDBG-CV Funds to install wifi at the park.

Tam Rodier, CD Program Coordinator at Community Planning, shared how \$900,000 was brought in through Cares Act grant through HUD to prepare to respond to Covid-10 virus. The DBA previously received support for downtown public restrooms, and Salvation Army received support for Mobile Meal Access. Community Development Project, working with Park's Staff, is targeting improvements at eight city parks, including North, South, Arrowhead, Pioneer, Central, and Comanche Parks. For funding, they need an environmental review and historical review. North Park, platted in 1882, is proposing a pre-fab restroom to replace the decrepit bathroom at the Park. After HUD approval and a competitive process it will take another 6-8 months before the

restroom can be put into place. At Comanche Park they are looking at replacement of the playground equipment. There is a proposal for all eight Parks to have WiFi available. All of this funding is directed toward lower income neighborhoods. On a motion from Zac, seconded by Evan, both projects were unanimously approved.

c. Motion: Submittal of the FY22-23 CLG Grant – This is the annual request for CLG funds to complete historic preservation activities. The \$6,000 combined with local match from Billings, Laurel and Yellowstone County provide \$8,500 to contract with the Western Heritage Center to conduct activities on behalf of the YHPB. Yearly activities are identified in the annual work plan that the board will begin review and update to at the next meeting. Becky motions to submit the CLG grant to SHPO, seconded by Linda. Approved.

5. Other Business:

a. March YHPB Roundtable - Scheduled for Tuesday March 15, 8:30-10:00AM. Hosted by the Western Heritage Center. Mailed sixty packets sent out to prospective attendees that included invitation, nomination forms, and list of previous recipients for Best Practices and Eugene Carroll Historic Preservation Award. Posted on Facebook. Sent email blast to media. Cecelia Gavinsky will manage the power point program for Roundtable. Lora is to receive the award nominations. Kate Hampton, Community Preservation, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, will attend the Roundtable (we usually give out of town guests five minutes to present).

b. Consultants Report:

NATIONAL REGISTER NOTES

Riverside Park, Laurel. We have not moved on it this past month, but intend to by March.

GRANT CONSIDERATION

Kevin Kooistra attended the Community Development Division MHPG Application Workshop on January 12, 2022 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm.

GRANT REVIEW

Montana's Rural Heritage Project (RMRH) grant Part 1 application form for restoration work at Riverside Park in Laurel.

HUD REVIEW

North Park - Use of CDBG-CV Funds and Comanche Park - Use of CDBG-CV Funds.

RESEARCH REQUESTS (SEVERAL)

b1. FACTOR EARTH and THINGLINK:

Downtown Walking Tour. Lauren Hunley presented findings. Factor Earth is an APP that is more suited to a younger audience, because of the Augmented and Virtual Reality. Set up would be more complicated and cost more. ThinkLink, which the WHC has, would be similar to the previous walking tour on-line program we offered. Lauren estimated the cost to be about \$3,000 to run it from 2022-2025. Museum staff can contribute some hours with YHPB hours, but we should look at grant funding. ThingLink is more accessible, easier to set up, and can be on multiple websites. Works well with 2D maps and can include up to 5 images for each property, as well as the ability to add video and audio components. Evan Bruce motioned forward for ThingLink with Becky 2nd.

c. HPO Report – Lora didn't have any additional comments.

d. Board Roundtable –

1. Evan shared story about Laurel business property in their historic district that was damaged by an accident – 07 09 First Avenue North. Kevin and Lora looked at historic records.
2. Waiting on the Burger Dive Project for Minnesota Avenue.

3. Yegen Block demolition is moving forward.

Future Agenda Items: Potential COA – Burger Dive/Western Bar; Work Plan review/development; Roundtable

Next YHPB Meeting: February 15, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.