



Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board

A Certified Local Government (CLG)

Program representing four governing bodies:

City of Billings

Yellowstone County

City of Laurel

Crow Tribe

MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2023

1st Floor Conference Room

Planning Division – Miller Building

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

Members Excused – Zachary Hassler, Brenna Moloney

Staff Present –Lora Mattox and Kevin Kooistra

Others Present – Perry Moler, North Elevation Task Force

1. Call to Order and Welcome

a. President Edgerton opened the meeting. No public comment.

2. Minutes – The April and June minutes were accepted.

3. Old Business:

a. Toolkit Update – Lora informed the board that Kate Hampton of the State Historic Preservation Office will look at a proposal for the development of the Toolkit and may be able to provide funding for development. Lora will look at the costs sent by the Montana History Foundation and send a proposal to Kate for consideration.

4. New Business:

a. News Member Application – Lora shared the application form Ginger Aldrich for consideration and recommendation to be appointed to the board. Ginger currently acts as the Elections Administrator for Yellowstone County. On a motion by Zac, seconded by Evan, the the board is unanimously recommending Ginger be appointed to the YHPB.

5. Other Business:

a. Consultant Report:

ACTIVITY

Lauren Hunley will be leading the digital walking map project and will discuss project details at the August meeting. Note: Mayor Cole is interested in creating a future walking map for the historic homes near North Elevation and Moss Mansion.

Kevin participated in a panel workshop on doing historic research for your historic home. The program was hosted at the community room of the public library on July 18. Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder Jeff Martin and librarian Lynne Puckett were the other two participants.

Began researching homes designed by Chandler Cohagen in the Pioneer Park / North Elevation neighborhood. This will help us if we decide to create a future public event or pursue a National Register nomination. Kevin presented a working power point biography and survey of Cohagen's work three times this past month. The program needs more detail and better research on the historic homes.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND HOME RESEARCH:

EL ranch near Nye, 1877 Canyon Creek research and stage station research, disaster research for Montana Avenue near City Offices (Mac), and 2525 Minnesota Ave.

Jay Thompson of Western Security Bank for building at 2525 Minnesota Ave. Looking at Certificate of Appropriateness for façade. They may present to YHPB Board.

Scan and research of 3115 9th Ave North photos and scrap book.

Cecelia Gavinsky and Kevin met with Lesley Gilmore to discuss the recent CAO assessment and priorities for preserving the historic Parmly Billings Library building. New interpretive panels are located on the west side of the building as part of the landscape improvements.

NATIONAL REGISTER UPDATES

Reviewing and writing the Riverside Park, Laurel, nomination. Received examples from SHPO for Livingston Park and Pioneer Park. We are about 80% completed. Kevin is following the excellent work of Emily Meick, Cecelia Gavinsky, Ann Kooistra-Manning and Michelle Caron. Kooistra put in 22 hours with writing and research in the past month.

On July 18, Lora Mattox and Kevin met with Kate Hampton of the State Historic Preservation Office. Kate is supportive of the on-line walking map (Due March 1, 2024) and a Chandler Cohagen multi-use property nomination research and writing in late Fall, 2023 and spring of 2024. Kevin gave Kate a tour of the historic Cohagen homes near McKinley School and Pioneer Park.

DEMOLITION

Kevin photographed demolition work at the corner of North 23rd and First Avenue North.

Kevin photographed potential demolition in the Moss Mansion neighborhood at 343 Clark Avenue.



Interpretive panels at Western Heritage Center



343 Clark Avenue (demolition)

Reminder: Hazel Hunkins Hallinan suffragist plaque ceremony is located at Lincoln School on North 31s^t. The ceremony took place on May 16.

Reminder: Montana History Conference: *Building on the Past, Annual Montana History Conference*, September 28-30, 2023, at the Delta Hotels Colonial in Helena. Lora Mattox and Kevin Kooistra will attend the all-day preservation workshops on September 28.

Lauren provided an example of layout options for ThingLink and the walking tour. She presented an option for a larger map that pinpoints different locations. Limitation of using this is the inability to add too many properties and it would be extensive to add audio/visual aspects. There is a second option of a smaller map that could be more focused. Lora suggests using the larger map for general locations in the downtown starting with 15 locations. Next phase could include a more extensive experience with audio/visual elements that could concentrate on certain areas such as the historic districts, i.e., Montana Avenue, Minnesota Avenue or North Broadway and North 32nd. A smaller group comprised of a couple board members will meet with Lauren to identify the first 15 sites.

b. Historic Preservation Officer Report – Lora mentioned the upcoming History Conference. Some changes are happening in the Planning Division, noting a couple major retirements and the big move happening next year.

c. Board Roundtable – Becky shared that she recently visited Butte and thoroughly enjoyed it. Kevin mentioned this week’s High Noon lecture featuring Lou Mandler on her latest book, “Montana’s Visionary Mayor: Willard E. Fraser.” Fraser was progressive and controversial four-term mayor in Billings in the 1960’s. Should be a good one!

a. Announcement: Next meeting TBD. Due to conferences and board availability, meeting may be postponed or moved to another date.