



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 16, 2024
Yellowstone County Museum Storage Facility
3246 King Avenue East

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

Members Excused – Brenna Moloney

Members Absent –

Staff Present –Lora Mattox, Dave Green, Kevin Kooistra,

Others Present – Dave Wanzenried

1. Call to Order and Welcome

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

2. Minutes – The December minutes were accepted as presented.

3. Old Business: none

4. New Business:

a. Dave Wanzenried: Boothill Cemetery/Coulson Park Discussion – Dave Wanzenried explained his involvement in and interest in the Boothill cemetery. He would like to be able to raise awareness of the cemetery and its history and significance in the Billings area history. Mr. Wanzenried raised a concern he had with the possibility of erosion unearthing some of the grave sites and general deterioration of the Boothill Cemetery. He also gave an overview of several other sites in the area that are of significance and with time have become less known or known by very few people.

The discussion turned to the use of QR codes to provide information about sites around Billings but specifically Boothill Cemetery. With QR codes other sites in Billings and surrounding areas could guide people to different locations for more history of the area.

The topic of placing an historic site sign in the Boothill Cemetery was brought up by Lora Mattox. The sign will be looked into for the Boothill Cemetery or other means of signage in the area.

2024-2025 Work Plan Review/Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the YHPB work plan. The motion was approved by the board.

Project 1: Complete a National Registration Riverside Park in Laurel.

The time frame for the Draft nomination is by the summer 2024.

Project 2: Complete an update to the YHPB Downtown Walking Tour Application. With funds from SHPO, this is currently being updated through the Western Heritage Center.

The time frame for this project is the summer of 2024.

Project 3: Through additional SHPO funds, the YHPB was able to purchase two Window Restoration Toolkit from Preserve Montana. This spring the YHPB will host hands-on work shop to teach basic window restoration.

The time frame for this project is the spring of 2024.

Project 4: YHPB will look to develop a local program similar to the State Historic Preservation Offices' Montana Hidden History. Two suggestions have been a tour of the Lincoln Center Tunnels and a Cohagen House Tour. This would be an opportunity for the YHPB to generate some income towards historic preservation activities, such as funds for local match of grants, program development, limited survey and national register work, etc.

The time frame for this project is throughout 2024 and beyond – Lincoln Center Tunnels during May (Preservation Month)

Project 5: Complete an MPD for Chandler Cohagen properties with the City of Billings. Additional SHPO funding has been allowed for this project. The WHC is currently developing this package.

The time frame for this project if through fall of 2024.

FY24-25 CLG Grant Application Review/Action: approved by the board.

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 reviews annually.

5. Other Business:

a. Consultant Report:

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Kevin Kooistra - WHC Lead.

RESEARCH UPDATES

Reviewing and writing the Riverside Park, Laurel, nomination. Kooistra put in 40 hours with writing and research in the past two months. There are five buildings of historic interest. Quick review and some more edits. Will try to send out to the SHPO in January, 2024.

Kooistra will begin the National Register nomination for Chandler Cohagen multiple property nomination in late February (7 key properties near Pioneer Park and North Elevation). Target deadline is June 01, 2024.

Lauren Hunley is leading the digital walking map project. She put in another 15 hours this past month – It will be completed by March of 2024.

NEWS

23rd Annual YHPB Historic Preservation Roundtable. Hosted on March 19 at 8:30 by the Art House Cinema & Pub at 109 North 30th. Mailing for Awards and announcements in January, 2024.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND HOME RESEARCH:

- Working with Dave Wanzenried for Boothill Cemetery Project / research about Sacrifice Cliff story.

Note: *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories* opens at Western Heritage Center on April 9, 2024 - May 24, 2024.

b. Historic Preservation Officer Report – The roundtable coming up, will need too get everything together for this event. A lot went on this past year because of the extra money provided by the state. Lora will be stepping aside; her new job does not provide her with the time to be able to be the Historic Preservation Officer any longer.

c. Board Roundtable – Discussion about the Eugene Carroll award was brought up and it was suggested that Dave Wanzenried be the recipient of that award. It was recommended that Art House receive the award for Best Practices, Evan also recommends the bank building at 101 E. Main in Laurel for their rehabilitation of the building. Nominations will be reviewed at the next board meeting. Also mentioned was having the board meeting in Laurel at a future date.

a. Announcement: Next meeting February 20, 2024.