



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

September 15, 2026

City Hall, Beartooth Conference room

Members Present –Cecelia Gavinsky, Ashley Holeman, Tony Contreras, Brennan DeBoer, Aaron Kind, Rachael De La Cruz, Linda Lien

Members Excused – Zachary Garhart

Members Absent –

Staff Present – Dave Green

Others Present – No one

1. Call to Order and Welcome

a. No public comment.

2. Minutes – The July minutes were accepted.

3. Old Business:

- A. Brennan DeBoer reviewed the Wayman Chapel assessment. The building has problems with water. The basement floods in heavy rain and the water table seems to be just below the basement floor. Siding on the building also has water damage. The Parsonage building interior has basically fallen apart, but the structure appears to be in decent condition. With the assessment completed, the State Historic Preservation Office will take the information and begin the process of applying for a grant to begin the process of repairs to the building.
- B. The Editing Committee has not had the opportunity to meet and begin proposed changes or additions to the bylaws.
- C. Downtown Historic District. It was suggested about learning what, if any, buildings are on a historic registry. Then it is a matter of finding out if other building owners around them are interested in being in a historic district. Linda

Lien stated she would contact the state to find out what buildings are on the historic registry in downtown Billings.

- D. The board discussed the placement of signage around Billings. There were many options presented by different board members. There are trails that are not identified. Buildings in Billings that are historic but nothing to explain their history. The question was asked if Wayman Chapel has a sign explaining its history.

4. New Business:

- None

5. Other Business:

Tony has been in contact with Fox Farm in Laurel about getting on the historic designation. He feels they are not interested in it at this time and will just be available should they show interest.

Tony also spoke about the Fellows Program. He has been working with Kate Hampton and believes it is in place. There are a few details to work out. One being when it will be presented to those that are interested in the program.

- Cecelia spoke about the Hidden in Billings tour on September 26th, the self-guided tour allows the Billings community and beyond to explore the hidden stories and spaces inside some of the most famous historic buildings in Billings.
- Brennan asked how the YHPB reviews historic building applications. It was explained and Brennan will be bringing a presentation for the board at its next meeting.
- It was announced that at the end of the month is the Historic Preservation Conference. On the 26th there will be a tour that people can take, Hidden Billings. The tour begins at the Western Heritage Center.

a. Historic Preservation Officer Report – Nothing to report

Future Agenda Items

- Presentation about phase 1 of a project within First Congregational Church.

b. Announcement: Next meeting October 20, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned.