



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

July 15, 2008

Members Present – Kathleen Armstrong, Emelie Eaton, Maisie Sulser, Bill DuBeau, Brian Roberts

Members Absent – Warren Osik is excused

Staff Present – Kevin Kooistra-Manning and Kaili Payne, Western Heritage Center, Lora Mattox and Dave Green

Others Present – None

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by chair Emelie Eaton. This month's meeting was held at the Western Heritage Center. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as submitted by a motion made by Brian Roberts, seconded by Bill DuBeau. Minutes approved.

Public Comment – None.

CLG Budget Review – At the June meeting, Emelie Eaton asked for a presentation of the CLG budget for clarification. Lora reviewed this year's CLG budget breakdown. The total grant amount is \$8,000 with \$7,000 for WHC Consulting Services. The remaining \$1,000 can be used for board expenses such as the awards, beverages and room rentals. Emelie would like to see more board involvement with outside board activities such as the annual Roundtable.

Work Plan Review – Lora distributed copies of the 2008-08 work plan for a status of elements review.

Distribution of Draft Ordinance – Lora distributed new copies of the draft Historic Preservation Ordinance for review. Changes were incorporated from previous board discussions.

Committee Reports –

Historic Preservation Month Committee – After last month's discussion of May not being an ideal time for the Roundtable due to many of the participants working in the field, the Roundtable will be moved back to March. In addition, MSU-B charges \$300 for refreshments, Kevin suggests that the YHPB handle arranging for refreshments to lessen the cost.

Publicity Committee – In Sunday's edition of the Billings Gazette, an article on the North Elevation's efforts to become a local Historic Residential District was published.

Building Permit Review Committee – None submitted

Consultant Report – See below

YHPB CONSULTANT REPORT (*Given at Western Heritage Center, downtown*)
Tuesday morning, July 15, 2008 (for June 18-July15)

North Elevation National Register District Nomination: Kaili Payne, WHC staffer, has been working with the 1980 survey reports. She has been typing the information found on them on the North Elevation Subdivision survey forms. Due to their poor quality she has had to adjust them on the computer in order to read them. She refiled them in their proper street address, as they were mislabeled. It has been time consuming, the hand writings on some of the forms are difficult to decipher.

Each home in the district has a typed record form - 44 homes on North 32nd Street; 53 homes on North 31st Street; and 13 homes on the 8th, 9th, and 10th Avenue cross streets. Block managers have contacted WHC staff with questions.

North Elevation National Register Nomination Neighborhood Research:

Kevin and Anita continue to field calls from residents interested in the history of their homes. For example, Kelly Wright of 1012 North 31st received copies of the Cohagen blueprints of their family home. Cathleen Kuras, 934 N 31st Street, was given the YHPB password for Sanborn maps.

In late June, Kevin spotted a woman, Julie Longenecker, on Avenue B taking pictures of houses. He approached her and found out she was photographing houses her grandfather, Ingvald Anderson, built in the 1920s-1940s. Her dad, George Anderson (son of Ingvald), was with her. She and her dad are making an inventory of list of the properties he either built or designed. They said they had images her grandfather / dad took of some of his homes. It included some homes on North 32nd and North 31st. I have their phone number (they're from Billings). Ingvald Anderson is listed in the 1937 Polk Directory as a "Building contractor, Houses Built and Sold."

National Register Nominations:

The L&L Building, 2624 Minnesota Avenue, and the Oliver Building, 2702 Montana Avenue, nominations were considered at the SHPO Review Board for listing at a meeting in Hamilton on June 28, 2008. More historic research is needed for the L&L Building and establishing it in the context of local Chinese history of downtown Billings. The Oliver Nomination had fewer questions and concerns. Randy Hafer and Ed Thurner were representatives from Billings. SHPO would like to see more District nominations coming from the Billings area.

Program: Kevin's presentation on July 5th on how railroads shaped the towns of Yellowstone County for the Laurel Centennial celebration was canceled.

Note: Kate Hampton is leaving the SHPO / NR position for work with Montana Preservation Alliance. Today is her last day at SHPO.

YHPB contract with Western Heritage Center is for 36 hours of work each month.

Historic Preservation Officer Report

- Lora informed the board that the quarterly report has been sent to SHPO for the period of April through June.

Board Roundtable

- Dave informed the group about the proposed residential condo development at 2605 Minnesota Avenue.
- Bill reported that the bids for the Rialto Theater in Deer Lodge are coming in.
- Kevin mentioned that he has not been receiving demo permit information. Lora stated that there have been new hires in the Building Division and she will make sure they know she is also to receive notice of demolitions.
- Kathleen informed the board about the Yellowstone County Museum's efforts to develop a museum site up near Swords Park that may include commercial development such as a hotel/convention center.

Meeting adjourned. 8:55