



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
June 16, 2009

Members Present –Emelie Eaton, Kathleen Armstrong, Bill DuBeau, Julie Larsen, Maisie Sulser and Kyle Rickhoff

Members Absent – Warren Osik, Brian Roberts

Staff Present – Kevin Kooistra-Manning and Lora Mattox

Others Present – None

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by chair Emelie Eaton. A welcome to Kyle to the board! The minutes of the May meeting were approved by a motion made by Kathleen, seconded by Bill. Minutes approved.

Public Comment – None.

Board Member Replacement Procedure – The YHPB reviewed the policy for replacing a board member if that member requests to resign from the board. According to the Ordinance, after a vacancy is reported, the local government has 60 to replace the member. This discussion came about with the potential moving to the county by Brian Roberts. Brian is currently the City of Billings representative to the board. Brian's current term is up December 31, 2009, he anticipates the move in September the earliest. The board discussed having Brian retain his city appointment until his term is up at the end of December and if Brian would like to stay on the board, move Kyle to the city appointment and have Brian move into the county appointment. This will be discussed further with Brian.

MDU Mitigation Update – Kevin discussed the status of the demolition of the MDU building to make way for the construction of the new Federal Courthouse. Pete Brown from SHPO contacted Kevin about possibly looking at mitigating effects of the demolishing the building by not only surveying and photographing the building prior to demolition, but by GSA providing funds to complete the Downtown through the Decades panel. This panel would include information about the MDU building included. We should hear more about this within the next 3 weeks.

Committee Reports –

Historic Preservation Month Committee – None.

Publicity Committee – None.

Building Permit Review Committee – None

Project Reports - None
Consultant Report –

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Report by Kevin Kooistra-Manning and Kaili Payne, consultants to the Board.

North Elevation National Register Nomination:

Kevin and Kaili met a couple times to discuss inputting of data from the neighborhood forms. A couple more detailed forms came in from neighbors. A database of the neighborhood homes and occupation was created from the Polk City Directory for the years 1927, 1937, and 1947.

Kevin created an photograph excel database for taking photographs of each of the properties. Julie Mayala Larsen, YHPB Board member, will be taking many of the images.

Downtown Through the Decades:

Pete Brown, of the SHPO, contacted Kevin about the downtown MDU building demolition. Kevin sent information about “shovel ready” project called *Downtown Through the Decades*, that the YHPB Board has on its work plan. Pete wrote GSA and Big Sky Economic Development in support the YHPB effort to create a portable *Downtown through the Decades* exhibit chronicling Billing’s architectural resources such as the MDU Building’s history. The completed exhibit would be property of and managed by the YHPB, and would be displayed at community events such as farmers’ markets and street fairs. We’ll know next month about the viability of the project.

Laurel Historic Downtown Survey:

Sarah Adamson, a research associate from Jackson Hole, visited with Kevin looking for information about Laurel Downtown History. Kevin gave her copies of YHPB surveys, YHPB Walking Tour Booklet, and WHC photographs.

National Register Public Program:

Kevin presented a National Register program on Thursday evening, May 21, at the South Side Task Force monthly meeting.

Demolition:

Kevin photographed a demolition at 3144 Grand Avenue.



Historic Preservation Officer Report – Lora had nothing more to add.

Board Roundtable –

- Maisie informed the board that recently some visitors from Great Falls downtown group went on a tour with Randy to learn about some of the redevelopment of the downtown. Also, the National Register plaques have been received for the Oliver and L&L Building.
- Julie spoke of her recent trip to Seattle and the redevelopment of the High School in the Queen Anne Neighborhood into condo units.
- Bill discussed the continued renovation project of Hamilton Hall at MSU; also his firm continues to assist the Nelson brothers on the rehab of the Northern Hotel. Finally he spoke of the contact from KULR8 about the recent number of downtown fires.
- Kyle spoke about how he is looking forward to helping the board with technology as far as public awareness and website development. Kyle will be a great asset for the board.
- Kevin spoke about an upcoming speaker: Ben Steele, who at 92 was sent to the Philippines before WWII and was there after Pearl Harbor and was captured by the Japanese and spent time in a POW camp. During his imprisonment, he drew much of what he witnessed and although these drawings were destroyed, he recreated them once he returned to the US. 10 of his oil paintings will be displayed and he will give a talk on July 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the WHC.

The next YHPB meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21st at 8:00 a.m. in the large conference room, 4th Floor Library.

Meeting adjourned. 8:40 a.m.