



## ***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**

**November 19, 2013**

**Members Present** – Nancy Curriden, Liz Harding

**Members Absent** – Julie Larsen, Diane Jung

**Staff Present** – Lora Mattox, Kevin Kooistra, Lynda Woods and Elizabeth Degrenier (Western Heritage Center)

**Others Present** – None

The minutes of the September were delayed due to no quorum.

**Public Comment** – None.

No quorum present so the board moved forward with non-action items to allow time for potentially additional members to arrive.

**Garfield School** - Kevin and Lora were contacted by Regina Demis of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch to see if the YHPB would collaborate with them in the dedication of the Garfield School Building which was just recently listed to the National Register. Kevin and Lora will continue to work with Regina to see if we can get an event to announce the listing with possibly the Mayor attending. In addition, since it is proposed for May (Preservation Month), the board discussed re-showing the presentation on the South Side Architecture.

**Historic Preservation Officer's Report** – Lora asked if the board would like to meet at the Moss Mansion for December's meeting. The board typically meets at the Moss at the holidays to see their beautiful Christmas trees that are decorated by non-profit organizations. Lora mentioned that she received several calls last week regarding the Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board openings, one was an Architect at CTA, another was a resident of Laurel that has an historic preservation background. We will keep our fingers crossed that they apply. Diane Jung will be automatically appointed to her second term by the Commissioners and Nancy has sent her request to be re-appointed to the Billings Mayor. We did also receive a nomination from the Commissioners for Tabatha Butler. Liz is still in her first term. Julie Larsen is not eligible to be reappointed due to term limits. Her last meeting will be December. Lora informed the board that Renee Flood had to resign the board to do health reasons. Lora will send a Certificate of Appreciation and a card signed by the board. Finally, Lora reported that she sent the final grant paperwork to the Montana History Foundation.

**Consultant's Report** – attached

**Board Roundtable** – Liz mentioned that the Yellowstone Art Museum is working on its 50th anniversary and are trying to locate a manufacturer that could help them replicate the old jail keys. Lora mentioned Tim Urbaniak at City College, they have done some amazing things replicating items. Kevin asked about the Roundtable, is the board going to try the Depot or remain at the Babcock? Depends on whether Gene at the Rex would allow us to use their parking lot just for the morning.

The next regular meeting will be held on December 17, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the Moss Mansion if available.

Meeting adjourned.

## YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD (Page 2)

**Tuesday, November 19 2013**

Report by Kevin Kooistra and Elisabeth DeGrenier

### North Elevation and McKinley School (Continued)

principal, to see if he had any information or contacts – there is a great resource of photographs that document McKinley during the 1920s that was scanned by Western Heritage Center / Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board.

### Review of Historic Properties

Several rehabilitation projects using Community Development Block Grant funding were reviewed including residences in the 4000 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South, 400 block of South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, 400 block of South 37<sup>th</sup> Street, 400 block of Alderson Avenue, and the 2200 block of Poly Drive. Reviewed the Programmatic Agreement between the Community Development Division and the YHPB.

### Community Assistance

Followed up with a request to find information about Nick Rodriguez (or Rodriguez) who was Killed In Action during World War II in Germany on April 4, 1945. Request was from Anthony Nouens of the Netherlands who is researching US servicemen killed in WW II buried in the US Military Cemetery in Holland (and Belgium), near where he lives. Sent Nouens a January, 1944 Gazette piece about him entering the army and the Billings Gazette announcement of this death in 1945.

Consider request from Regina Demis, of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, to see if the Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board and the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch could collaborate together on bringing attention to the Garfield School building located at 3212 1st Ave. South Billings as this building has been recently designated as a historical site on the National Register. May is historic preservation month.

## YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

**Tuesday, November 19 2013**

Report by Kevin Kooistra and Elisabeth DeGrenier

### Preservation Workshop with Ellen Crain

Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board, with funding support from the Montana History Foundation, sponsored an archives workshop with Ellen Crain on Tuesday, October 15, 2:00-5:00. Crain, the long-time director of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, spoke to 30 participants on how to protect your community's / organization's historical records and learn potential funding sources. The Yellowstone Art Museum hosted the event. Photographs taken by Liz Harding were shared on the YHPB face book page (as well as an update on YHPB board). Several attendees suggested we look at developing a community archive sharing program – a database of what each repository holds and collects to streamline community archive efforts.

### Yellowstone County Jail and Yellowstone Art Museum Research

Research hours were dedicated to the celebration of the Yellowstone Art Museum anniversary at the County Jail site on North 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Research and photographs were delivered to YAM staff and another writer / researcher. Information was sought in newspaperarchive.com, the Library of Congress site for Chronicling America, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.

According to "The River Press" on March 7, 1883, "the bill creating the new county of Yellowstone out of Custer County, has passed both houses, and Billings will now rise to the dignity of a county seat." From this date we can now differentiate between the constructions of Custer County jails and Yellowstone County jails. The earliest known Sanborn Fire Insurance map drawing of the jail, in its current location on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N and 27<sup>th</sup> St. N, is from January, 1888. In 1903, the Anaconda Standard reported the construction of a new Yellowstone County Jail and Courthouse. The Yellowstone Art Center formed in 1949 and had its opening in the old jail building on October 18, 1964.

### North Elevation and McKinley School

Research hours were dedicated to the history of McKinley School for the purpose of speeding along the North Elevation Historic District.

The History of Billings City Schools, 1879-1936, by Ruth Wayer (written in 1936) is a good source. Ann M. Mars wrote a brief history on McKinley in 1980, but there are no citations or bibliography to check sources. Contacted Ed Kemmick, author of "McKinley Elementary to celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> birthday" in the Billings Gazette, and he recommended contact with Rika McBride or CeCe Bentler. Also contacted Bert Reyes, the school