



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

December 17, 2013

Moss Mansion

Members Present – Nancy Curriden, Liz Harding, Diane Jung

Members Absent – Julie Larsen

Staff Present – Lora Mattox and Kevin Kooistra

Others Present – None

The minutes of the September and November were approved on a motion by Diane and seconded by Liz.

Public Comment – None.

YHPB Membership - Lora discussed that the County received two applications for the board. Unfortunately, Lora didn't receive the applications from the county for the board to review and act on. The board will act on them when received and reviewed. The first is from Kevin Nelson, an architect from CTA Architects. Lora stated that he would be an excellent addition to the board as we have been without an architect for a year. The second is Judy Goldsby from Laurel. Lora spoke with her on the phone and discussed either applying through the City of Laurel or through Yellowstone County (county representative). She applied through the county so if appointed she would be the county representative. Lora hopes to hear back from the board by the end of the week on the two applications.

FY14-15 CLG Grant - Lora discussed this item, this is the annual grant application that is applied for every year. The amount of CLG funds available for this year is \$5,225 which is a reduction of \$225 from last year (due to the sequestration). After review the board on a motion from Liz, seconded by Diane approved the submittal of the FY14-15 CLG grant.

YHPB Roundtable - Kevin stated that Jennifer Mercer at the Depot would like to host the YHPB Roundtable this year. Gene Burgett of the Rex has agreed to allow participants to park at the Rex for the morning event. Liz asked for some information regarding the Roundtable and Kevin and the board explained the event. We still haven't been able to get a hold of Julie to get the pictures from last year's event, Lora will try.

Historic Preservation Officer's Report – Lora mentioned a couple things that came up this week, the first is contact from CTA Architects (Mike Tuss and Leslie Gilmore) regarding YHPB role in the renovation of Broadwater and McKinley Elementary Schools. Lora informed that the board would make comment on the proposed work that could be included with any correspondence with MTSHPO and School District to ensure the retention of historic features as Broadwater is listed to the National Register and McKinley is eligible. Second was the inquire from MetraPark concerning the Heritage Building. Sue DeVries (sp?) asked if the building was

listed to the National Register and if so, what did that mean for rehabilitation. If not listed, what was the benefit to being listed. Lora passed along information regarding National Register listing. Sue will take this information to the County Commissioners for direction. The YHPB would like to look at the building in person and Kevin will look to see what information or photographs he may have. Lora will contact Bill or Sue and ask if the board could have a tour some time.

Consultant's Report – attached

Board Roundtable – Diane asked what the protocol is when a CDBG rehab project comes in and the property is eligible for the National Register. What is the procedure? In the past when properties have had historic features that could be damaged due to the rehab, the board made recommendations on types of materials or style. There is a question about how Lynda makes the determination about the property being eligible or not eligible for the register, Kevin is going to talk to her and discuss. The YHPB can only make recommendations if the property is deemed eligible for the register since the property is still private and under the control of the owner. One thing also is that the YHPB recommendations get forwarded to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office for concurrence, so even if the YHPB maybe misses something, the MTSHPO also has some say.

Liz mentioned that during the cold spell that some of the pipes froze in the employee lounge of the Yellowstone Art Museum. During the maintenance man's exploration to find the area of trouble he discovered an old jail cell still completely intact with the lock and everything. So the YAM is going to excavate the wall and expose the cell. How cool!!

The next regular meeting will be held on January 21, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

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 2nd Ave South, 400 block of South 33rd Street, 400 block of South 37th 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 27th 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 4th Ave N and 27th 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 100th birthday" in the Billings Gazette, and he recommended contact with Rika McBride or CeCe Bentler. Also contacted Bert Reyes, the school