



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 16, 2014

MOSS MANSION

Members Present –Nancy Curriden, Judy Goldsby, Logan Hendricks, Tabatha Butler, Liz Harding

Members Excused –Kevin Nelson

Members Absent -

Staff Present – Lora Mattox, Kevin Kooistra, Elisabeth DeGrenier

Others Present –

Introductions -

The minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Judy and seconded by Tabatha.

Public Comment – None.

CLG Program Review - The local Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is reviewed by the State HPO every four years to gauge the effectiveness of the program and to discuss any issues. The HPO and YHPB reviewed the CLG review paperwork. The YHPB submitted comments to include and Lora will complete the document and send to Kate Hampton at the State.

North Elevation Historic District/Consultants Report - This agenda items were combined as it is in the Western Heritage Report.

North Elevation Historic District:

The focus for the past two months has been with the historic district nomination.

Strategic planning meeting with Lora Mattox, Elisabeth DeGrenier, and Kevin Kooistra at the Rock Creek Coffee shop, November 12.

Elisabeth created the new map that defines the boundaries of the North Elevation District, which now includes almost 150 properties!

Elisabeth and Lora attended the North Elevation Task Force meeting on November 18 to update the neighbors and recruit volunteers for work with filling out the Historical Property Records.

Elisabeth is using the deed records at the Clerk & Recorder's office, on the 4th floor of the Courthouse, to search for information pertaining to ownership of the homes. She has been spending 10 hours a week on city deed records at the Courthouse and filling in the historic property record forms for property ownership history. The process is laborious and time-consuming, but progress is being made. Elisabeth provided a training session on Monday, December 15, and will be available every Monday morning from 10:00-11:30 for other volunteers to the project. Training takes about an hour and the volunteers should be able to research a property in a couple hours.

Elisabeth organized the architectural notes and created the list for property records still needing architectural descriptions. The work on the architectural descriptions is moving forward.

Elisabeth searched and organized the property records to determine which properties still need further photographic documentation, as well as properties that still need photographs taken. The work on the photographs and descriptions is moving forward.

Elisabeth assessed where we were on the maps and home footprints for each property.

Community Work:

Kevin reviewed the cultural resource inventory and evaluation for the proposed Verizon Wireless communications facility (a 45 foot tall monopole tower) at 5603 Interstate Avenue, just south of the Interstate. The proposal accounts for previously

recorded cultural resources within one mile of the monopole, including several historic irrigation systems that will not be directly impacted by the project.

Reviewed the CLG Review Questionnaire sent out by the National Park Service.

Kevin Kooistra sent Jordan Smith, High Plains Architects, P.C., historic photographs and research relating to a potential expansion of the Billings Old Town Historic District.

Kevin photographed the scheduled demolition in the alleyway at 37 ½ Clark Avenue.



Photograph taken December 9, 2014.

Events:

Jim McDonald, Historic Preservation Architect.

Noon Hour program at the Western Heritage Center, December 18, 2014.

A free program sponsored by the Tippet Rise Find of the Sidney Frank Foundation.

Jim McDonald and his team at A&E Architects won a historic preservation award from the American Institute of Architects for their part in the \$26 million restoration of the Old Faithful Inn. McDonald is also a co-founder of the Montana Preservation Alliance. He has worked for the preservation and renovation of Rustic Style Buildings in Yellowstone National Park, Glacier, Bryce, Zion, Grand Canyon and Grand Teton National Parks. Learn his story and about his passion for historic buildings, this Thursday at the Western Heritage Center, 2822 Montana Avenue. The program will also be filmed by Community Seven TV.

Historic Preservation Officer Report - Lora reported that High Plains Architect have requested an expansion of the Old Town Historic District. The expansion is on Montana Avenue and includes the Mitchell Golf Building. Lora also suggested that in February or early spring, the YHPB and the North Elevation Task Force should conduct a public meeting inviting all residents within the proposed historic district to discuss progress on the district and make sure we have support from those owners. Finally, Lora informed the board that Ellen Kuntz has resigned from the board as her work schedule did not allow for the meeting time.

Board Roundtable – Liz stated that the YAM is in the process of replacing the interior lights with LED lights. Also, the YAM had a record year in attendance!! The YAM to date has had 22,000 patrons come through their doors. Liz also stated that the Will James exhibit will be coming in March. Logan discussed the upcoming work on the Galles Building located down by the Skate Park, the owners plan on interior and exterior renovations and will be coming to the board for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Judy will be starting her new adventure archiving items at the Laurel Public Library. She will be evaluating items, scanning and digitizing. Tabatha has been chosen to participate on a Tax Advocacy Panel. This panel oversees the IRS to ensure fairness. There are 81 participants nationally.

The next meeting will be on January 20th in the first floor conference room.