



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

April 15, 2008

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

Members Absent –

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

Others Present –

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by chair Emelie Eaton. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted by a motion made by Bill DuBeau, seconded by Kathleen Armstrong. Minutes approved.

Public Comment – None.

Draft Billings Ordinance Review – The board held a discussion on the proposed Billings Ordinance. There was a brief discussion on what a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is and how it would be used. A COA is an application form that provides information on alterations are planned for properties either on the National or Local Register or located within a National or Local Historic District. Brian raised a concern about forcing buildings and districts on the National Registry into a mandatory local registry when that is not what they had intended since the national rules don't have such strict enforcement, concern about the legality of automatically binding national registrants into a local registry, concern about telling someone like the Moss Mansion what we will now approve their changes, concern for the current residential district that is in the process of getting a national district designation having the local registry thrown on top of the national designation when that is not what they are intending. Lora discussed that the previously discussed grandfather clause would mean the Moss Mansion would not necessarily fall under the board's approval due to the grandfathering. Kevin mentioned that, for example, the Moss gets federal funding anyway which created mandatory oversight, which currently is overseen by the state. Kevin stated that future work with federal funds could be reviewed locally as well. Kathleen asked about the overall point of the ordinance, in terms of what is different about what is happening downtown and what is happening in residential districts, why do we need something new?, why do we need to change what we are doing downtown with other districts. It was pointed out that the downtown business district chose to have a local registry, and the debate is should we compel a national district to join the local registry. The district should have the choice to be on the local. It was also suggested that individuals within a district could individually apply to get listed locally too. Dave stated that he preferred keeping districts

an all-or-nothing group, without some certain buildings or areas of a national district getting on the local. Maisie states that she thinks the local registry should be mandatory in the business districts and encourage residential districts to join the local. Bill has concerns that we may lose credibility in the North Elevation Task Force Neighborhood if we change rules in the middle of the process. He agrees with Maisie that it should be strict in the business districts. Brian reconfirmed that he is worried that this will discourage future residential historic districts. Need to keep it simple.

Lora and Dave will continue work on the ordinance and bring it back to the board at a later board meeting.

2008 Award Nominations Review –

Best Practices Award: The board would like to tour the nominations and vote after the tours. The nominees include the Acme, CTA, and The Stapleton. Lora will schedule these for the board.

Eugene Carroll Award: The board discussed the 2 nominations this year, Mardell Plainfeather and O2 Architects. After discussion, the board on a 6-0 vote approved Mardell Plainfeather as this year's recipient.

Committee Reports –

Historic Preservation Month Committee – See Consultant's Report

Publicity Committee – Lora and Kevin will make sure the press releases are submitted timely.

Building Permit Review Committee – None submitted

Consultant Report – See next page



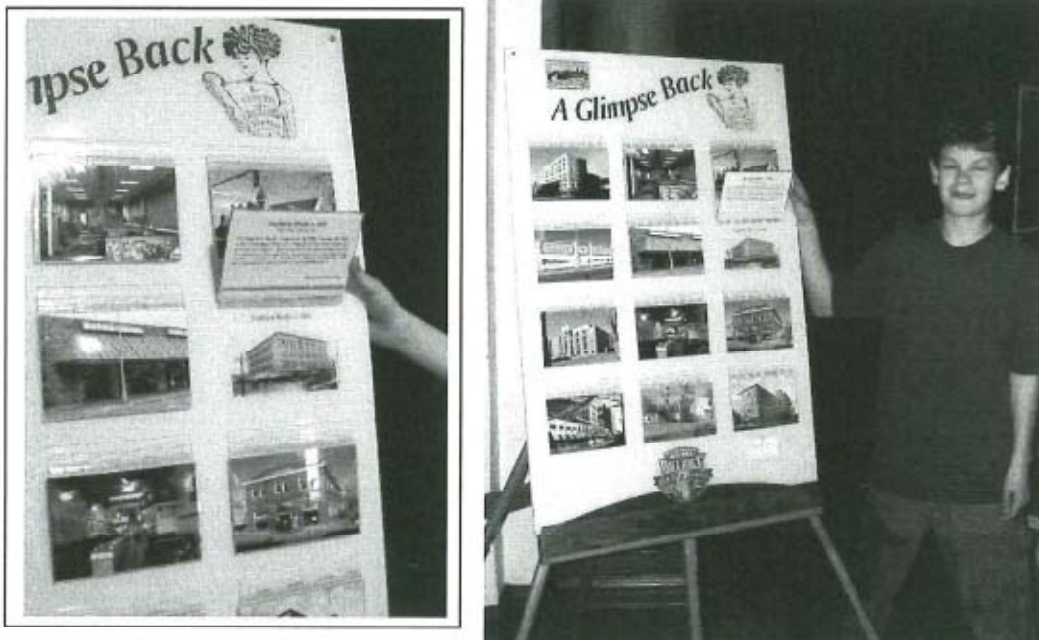
YHPB CONSULTANT REPORT April 15, 2008

- 1. North Elevation National Register District nomination:** Kaili Payne, WHC staffer, has been entering all the information so 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. Eric Simonson, a local neighbor, came in the WHC to do research for the neighborhood. Kaili and Kevin will walk the streets today and Kaili will input all the UTM coordinates starting this week.
- 2. Nomination Program:** Arrangements were made with the North Elevation Task Force to do a neighborhood history program and a how-to power point session for recording your house history. It is scheduled for the evening of May 20 at McKinley School. Kate Hampton, of the State Historic Preservation Office, has agreed to help with the program. Kevin will research and present a fifteen minute power point history of Billings and the local neighborhood. Kevin will also present at the North Elevation Task Force meeting on the evening of April 15.
- 3. The YHPB Annual Historic Preservation Roundtable:** The eighth annual historic preservation Roundtable is been scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20, from 8:00AM -10:00 AM**. The location is the MSU-Billings downtown campus (Masonic Temple). Lora sent out the nominating forms for the Eugene Carroll Award and Best Practices Award. Kate Hampton, State Historic Preservation Office, has agreed to attend the Roundtable. Kevin will bring the Jensen nomination for Best Practices (Olsen / Acme) to the April 15, 2008 meeting (it was handed in before April 1).
- 4. Preservation month speakers:** Two **Humanities Montana** Speaker Bureau program grants were funded for two programs in Laurel. Both programs were set up in late May for the ***The Crossings at St. Johns, 600 Roundhouse Road***. Kevin sent out press for both programs and has recently spoke to each of the two presenters. Laurel Outlook has already promoted the programs.
- 5. Rural Architectural Survey:** Tom Rust, Associate Professor of History at MSU-Billings, and his students are finishing their survey of rural Yellowstone County, focusing on agricultural properties. There are eight students. The student power point program is scheduled for **April 22, 11:30; at McCormick Cafe**. The students will have their lunch paid for by the YHPB / County Planning.
- 6. Exhibition:** Kathleen Armstrong took the Bricks and Boards and Glimpse Back panels to the Red Lodge Architecture Conference in March. Thanks! Glimpse Back panel is now on display the Western Heritage Center 125th Exhibit.
- 7. Preservation Survey.** Kevin responded to a SHPC state preservation survey in late March.

8. **Hosting a Preservation Workshop:** Kevin will attend the Link and Cohagen workshop, presented by the Billings Preservation Society, at the Western Heritage Center on the evening of May 28.

9. **Scheduling Annual Reports:** Lora and Kevin presented an annual report to the Billings City Council on Monday evening, April 7. Lora presented at Laurel in March. Yellowstone County power point presentations should be scheduled on Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

10. **Programs.** Kevin will provide a presentation on July 3rd 5th on how railroads shaped the towns of Yellowstone County for the Laurel Centennial celebration.



Glimpse Back panel of the Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board

Historic Preservation Officer Report

- Lora submitted the last quarterly report for the 07-08 CLG Grant.
- Lora prepared and sent over the new contracts with the WHC.
- Lora discussed the possibility of transferring the HPO responsibilities over to Dave as Lora transitions to the Transportation Planner position.

Board Roundtable

- Maisie discussed that the Minnesota Avenue business owners are looking into applying for Preserve America funding through SHPO to assist with preparing the National Register Nomination for this district.
- Kathleen asked who updates the website? At this time the city is in the process of switching to a new website design. The Planning Division will continue to oversee this

site. The YHPB site is overseen by Kevin and Brian. The YHPB site needs to be updated.

- Warren stated his concern about losing heritage sites. He spoke of the new Gettysburg visitor center recently constructed. And this new center will not interfere with the actual battlefield. We need to do all we can to preserve our heritage sites.
- Kevin discussed his continued efforts in obtaining oral histories in eastern Montana.
- Emelie discussed the upcoming Laurel Centennial Celebration. Councilman Gay Easton is working on a narrative book on Main Street.

Meeting adjourned. 9:53