



## ***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 17, 2008*

**Members Present** – Kathleen Armstrong, Emelie Eaton, Maisie Sulser, Warren Osik

**Members Absent** –

**Staff Present** – Julie Dial and Kaili Payne, Western Heritage Center, Lora Mattox and Dave Green

**Others Present** – Brenda Beckett, Community Development Division, Tammy Johnston, Historic Architectural Consultant to Community Development, Representatives from the Billings Food Bank and Chas Weldon, Curator of the Yellowstone County Museum

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. by chair Emelie Eaton. This month's meeting was held at the Yellowstone County Museum. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted by a motion made by Kathleen Armstrong, seconded by Warren Osik. Minutes approved.

**Public Comment** – None.

**Demolition of the Billings Food Bank Building at 2112 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North** – The Billings Food Bank received federal funds to demolish and construct a new building at the present site. Due to the use of federal funds, a Section 106 review must be completed by the local historic preservation board. The building was constructed during World War II out of cinder blocks, there was no metal used in the construction. Over time the building has become structurally unsound. Emelie Eaton motion to approve the demolition request, Kathleen Armstrong seconded. Approved.

**2008 Roundtable Review** – Although attendance was down this year at the Roundtable, the conversations were good and the overall event went well. It was determined that by changing the date from March to May that many field personnel (archaeologists, biologist, etc) were unable to attend. It was discussed and decided the annual Roundtable will be scheduled for March yearly. Emelie asked about thank you notes to sponsors, Julie will check with Kevin. Kathleen also stated that this year the board forgot to do the phone tree to remind invitees.

**Committee Reports** –

**Historic Preservation Month Committee** – See Consultant's Report

**Publicity Committee** – Lora and Kevin sent out numerous press releases to announce the Roundtable. There were notices in the Billings Gazette and on the radio.

**Building Permit Review Committee** – None submitted

**Consultant Report** – See below

## **YHPB CONSULTANT REPORT**

*Given at Peter Yegen Jr. Yellowstone County Museum at the Airport*

**June 17, 2008** (for April 17-June 17)

**Architectural Survey:** Tom Rust, Professor of History at MSU-Billings, and his students finished their survey of rural Yellowstone County, focusing on agricultural properties. There were eight students. The student power point program was on April 22, 11:30; at McCormick Cafe. The students had their lunch paid for by the YHPB / County Planning. Rust and the students produced an 800 page document of agricultural buildings in Yellowstone County. I think MSU Billings was going to pay the students for all the gas they spent while traveling throughout the County.

**Annual Reports:** Kevin and Lora presented the annual YHPB report to the Yellowstone County Commissioners on Tuesday morning, April 29, 2008.

**YHPB Annual Historic Preservation Roundtable:** The eighth annual historic preservation Roundtable was scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, from 8:00AM -10:00 AM. The location was 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, agreed to attend the Roundtable. Kevin ordered the awards for Best Practices (Olsen / Acme) and Eugene Carroll Award (Mardell Plainfeather) and made arrangements with the award recipients. Kevin wrote speeches for each of the award winners for the presenters. Press releases were sent out to several hundred people and markers. This year we only had 27 people attend. Kevin thinks having it later in the year, versus March, may have cut out some attendees. The archaeologists, who typically attend, were not there as they are already in the field working. We had extra food, but we won't get charged for the bottled water and bottled drinks we left behind. The awards cost about \$55.00 a piece and the food was about \$200.00 dollars. Kevin has copies of photographs for all participating YHPB events.

**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 32<sup>nd</sup> Street; 53 homes on North 31<sup>st</sup> Street; and 13 homes on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue cross streets. Kaili and Kevin walked the streets and Kaili inputted all the UTM coordinates. Brian Roberts meet with Kevin and Kaili a couple times to check on the progress of the forms and orchestrate the evening workshop on May 20. Kate Hampton, of the State Historic Preservation Office, drove around the neighborhood with Brian, Kevin and Kaili for an hour and a half and determined house styles in the district of interest. They took Kate out for Lunch at George Henrys.

### **North Elevation National Register Nomination Neighborhood Research**

Kevin, Kaili and Brian continue to field calls from other residents interested in the history of their homes. Eric Simonson, an architect and local neighbor, came in the WHC to do research for the neighborhood. Eric was helpful in identifying some of the Cohagen and Link homes in the neighborhood. For example, Kevin helped Kelly

Wright of 1012 North 31<sup>st</sup> with historic research questions and also reprinted Cohagen blueprints of their family home that Eric had earlier identified.

**National Register Nomination Program:** The North Elevation Task Force hosted a very successful neighborhood history program, how-to power point session for recording your house history, and a National Register of Historic Places review program. 47 people attended at McKinley School on the evening of May 20. Kate Hampton presented the National Register Program. Kevin researched and presented a fifteen minute power point history of Billings and the local neighborhood. Brian handed out forms to the homeowners and had block captains volunteer. It was a great program with lots of enthusiasm from the neighbors!

**Preservation Month Speakers:** Two Humanities Montana Speaker Bureau program grants funded two programs in Laurel. Both programs were in late May at the *The Crossings at St. Johns, 600 Roundhouse Road*. Kevin sent out press for both programs, made arrangements with Cole Hardin at the Crossings, and spoke to each of the two presenters before their programs. The Laurel Outlook wrote a nice article about the two programs. Yellowstone Public Radio, Community Seven TV, Billings Gazette Enjoy and Billings Outpost all promoted the programs

*Preservation and Community: A Sense of Place* Allan J. Mathews, historian, writer, preservation consultant. Thursday, May 22: 7:00 PM. After thirty minutes of struggle with three computers, Mathews presented a program that highlighted unique architectural elements seen in building in Laurel. About 14 people attended. The Senior Center is brand new and it is not the best location for community programming.

*Clothing as Art: A Crow Tradition* Mardell Plainfeather, Retired national park ranger and Crow historian. Thursday, May 29, 7:00 PM. Mardell's engaging talk was attended by 15 people, many of who stayed after the program to learn more about bead design.

**Humanities Montana Grant Reports.** Kevin completed the grant paperwork for the Humanities Montana speaker bureau programs and sent out the two grant reports.

**Hosting a Preservation Workshop:** Kevin attended the Link and Cohagen workshop, presented by the Billings Preservation Society, at the Western Heritage Center, on the evening of May 28 and helped with their computer needs. Kevin provided several historic images for their power point presentations.

**Programs** Kevin will provide a presentation on July 5<sup>th</sup> on how railroads shaped the towns of Yellowstone County for the Laurel Centennial celebration.

**NOTE:**

*YHPB contract with Western Heritage Center is for 36 hours of work each month and a \$1,000 expenses account for Board expenses.*

Mardell Plainfeather Program – May 29, 2008 – The Crossings at Laurel



Maisie Sulser presents Kim and Don Olsen with the Best Practices Achievement Award for their work with the Acme Hotel renovations. May 20, 2008.



Tom Rust and MSU Billings students present their agricultural survey, April 22, 2008



North Elevation Task Force National Register Program at McKinley School, Evening of May 20, 2008.



Billings Preservation Society workshop at the Western Heritage Center on Chandler Cohagen and John G. Link, May 28, 2008



Kate Hampton, SHPO National Register Coordinator, Ruth Towe and Tracy Livingston, Huntley Project Museum director, at the Roundtable, May 20, 2008.



### **Historic Preservation Officer Report**

- Lora informed the board that at this time she will be remaining as the Historic Preservation Officer.
- Lora passed around the National Register Nomination application for the L & L and Oliver Buildings. She will email the information and if the board has any comments, she will send those to SHPO.

### **Board Roundtable**

- Maisie informed the board that she is now listed on the SHPO list serve to receive any information on Preserve America funding or any other grant funds to assist the Minnesota Avenue group to development a National Register Nomination for the district.
- Emelie raised concerns about Lora possibly discontinuing the HPO position and encourages more discussions on the CLG administration, inner working on activities. She also would like a review of the work plan next month to see where the board is at on this year's priorities.
- Julie encouraged the board to have next month's meeting at the Western Heritage Center. Lora will send out an email to see the availability of board members for the month of July.

Meeting adjourned. 9:05