



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 15, 2016
First Floor Conference Room
2825 3rd Avenue North

Members Present – Ed Saunders, Tracy Livingston, Kevin Nelson, Sue Mueller, Nancy Curriden, Blain Fandrich, Allen Rapacz and Judy Goldsby

Members Absent –

Staff Present – Elisabeth DeGrenier and Lora Mattox

Others Present – Councilman Mike Yakawich and Tam Rodier, Community Development Division

Minutes - The minutes of the September meeting were approved on a motion by Judy, seconded by Sue. Approved.

Public Comment – Councilman Yakawich thanked all for their service on the board.

One Big Sky – Lora discussed the walk of the boundary by Kevin, Elisabeth, Dave Green and Lora to look at the buildings that would be demolished/impacted by this project. Overall, the buildings that would be demolished are not the best examples of downtown structures as many have been altered. There is the Pepsi ghost sign on the Yesteryears Antiques building that was installed in 1965, this should be photographed and documented. There will be significant visual impacts to the Stapleton Building back patios. Lora tells the board that the Council at Monday night's meeting approved the MOU to continue exploration of this development. Lora will send out a copy of the MOU. Elisabeth DeGrenier states that the Western Heritage Center is meeting with the DBA, downtown property owners, and the developers to discuss. Blain continues on the visual impacts to individual buildings that maintain a significant historic integrity. The downtown is designed with low lying buildings in the interior with taller outliers (1st Interstate, Double Tree, and Wells Fargo). This building is proposed right in the downtown. Blain continues to talk about the impacts to historic tourism and could potentially threaten the existing Historic Districts. He suggests a couple alternatives, the first would be to relocate this development to an outlying area such as just east of 27th Street near the old Federal Courthouse, or lower the overall height to be compatible with the existing downtown pattern. Kevin Nelson offers to invite the CTA Design Team to the January meeting to discuss the current plans being designed. Nancy Curriden suggests after all the information is provided to the YHPB a letter be submitted to the City Council regarding the opinions and recommendations of the YHPB and possible mitigation requests. Allen Rapacz also expresses his concerns with the impacts to the Stapleton and Kress Buildings, sun rights, massing. Lora will contact the State Historic Preservation Board to get their input on the impacts to our existing Historic Districts.

Consultant's Report –

North Elevation Historic District Update

Kevin and Elisabeth presented to the Montana state review board on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 for final review of the North Elevation Historic District nomination in Hamilton, MT. We prepared a short power point that gave an overview of the final narrative and historic property record forms. With a few edits, the Nomination passed the State Review Board. Edits were sent to Elisabeth and she completed them and sent the nomination back to John Boughton at SHPO. SHPO will be doing one last review and then sending the nomination to Washington DC. We have not heard whether it has been sent to DC yet.

National Register of Historic Places Historian

As part of the celebration of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (and the National Register of Historic Places), Paul Lusignan, the National Register gatekeeper and historian, gave a presentation at the Western Heritage Center on Wednesday evening, October 19 to a crowd of about 30 people.

Big Sky Center

On Thursday November 10th, Lora Mattox, Kevin Kooistra, Elisabeth DeGrenier and Dave Green walked the proposed footprint of the Big Sky Center (photos of impacted areas are attached.) We are trying to set up a meeting between the developers, CTA, Downtown Billings Alliance, the Western Heritage Center and YHPB to discuss the impact of this construction.

Historic Preservation Officer Report – Lora didn't have any additional items to report.

Board Roundtable – Kevin informed the board that he is off to Bozeman today to look at the Romney Gym at MSU. The gym dates back to 1922. Allen announced the opening of the Cider House in the former United Glass Building. This project was reviewed by the board a few months ago. Ed let the board know that he is pretty close to finishing the Women of WWI memorial. The ceremony is preliminarily scheduled for April 2017. Judy just returned from the East Coast where she visited Fort Monroe.

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Moss Mansion.

Meeting adjourned.