



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, 2008**

Members Present –Emelie Eaton, Kathleen Armstrong, Warren Osik, Brian Roberts

Members Absent – Maisie Sulser, Bill DuBeau, excused.

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

Others Present – None

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by chair Emelie Eaton. The minutes of the November meeting were approved by a motion made by Brian, seconded by Kathleen. Minutes approved.

Public Comment – None.

2009 Work Plan Draft – The board reviewed a draft of the 2009 work plan. Only one addition was made, the board would like to review the county agriculture buildings report prepared by students at MSU-B and determine if there are 2 or 3 properties that may be eligible for the National Register and approach property owners with information and gage interest. With this addition, the 2009 Work Plan was approved.

2009 Certified Local Grant Application – Lora informed the board that it was time to submit the CLG grant for 2009. Lora explained the application and budget for this year's application. After a short discussion, a motion was made by Brian and seconded by Emelie to support the submission of the CLG grant for 2009.

Committee Reports –

Historic Preservation Month Committee – None

Publicity Committee – None.

Building Permit Review Committee – None

Project Reports - None

Consultant Report – See next page

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YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

On Thursday, November 20, Lora Mattox, Rolene Schliesman, and Kevin Kooistra-Manning met with Randy Hafer and Joan Brownell to look over the boundaries for the proposed Minnesota Avenue / Old Town National Register Nomination. Maisie recently wrote and received a Preserve America Grant for the district.

Phone calls and questions about house histories for North Elevation property continue to slowly trickle in. Kevin Kooistra-Manning, Kaili Payne and Anita Schoen continue to field phone calls and questions about house histories for North Elevation property owners. Kaili will update the latest forms with her research on the WHC shared drive. Kevin will likely attend the December 16 Task Force meeting. Kevin contacted Kate Hampton at the Montana Preservation Alliance and John Boughton at State Historic Preservation Office National Register Program with updates on the North Elevation National Register Project.

Kevin attended the North Elevation Task Force Meeting about McKinley School on Tuesday evening, November 18, 6:00 PM. There were over 100 property owners and neighbors at the meeting. They overwhelmingly supported preserving the historic school and maintaining its historic integrity. They noted the need to update electrical, HVAC, and handicap accessibility. Most said the annex, built in the late 1950s, could be torn down to make space for more room for classrooms. No one complained about the parking. One person suggested taking out some historic homes, but that idea was quickly dismissed.

There was an article about McKinley, Broadwater, and Orchard Schools in the Billings Outpost (11-27-08) a few days after the meeting. There were several errors in the article, including a photograph of the old school boiler at McKinley with a caption that said it was still in use (it was mothballed in the 1950s). The Outpost writer was quoted as saying, about the historic schools, that "their fragile bones no longer hold up when compared with newer construction." The article continued, "Caught between the preservation-loving side that wants to keep the character of the neighborhood, and the side that wants to tear them down and rebuild for safety reason..." There is no evidence of the schools collapsing soon or being unsafe. The article continued, "Then there is the ever-present parking dilemma – around McKinley today, clogged narrow city streets outline its footprint, where drivers must carefully maneuver their way through, exercising care and caution as they look out for hundreds of small pedestrians." At the meeting, not a single neighbor or teacher complained about the parking.

Rolene Schliesman of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office and Kevin put together power point programs for the Billings Preservation Society which highlighted the preservation work of the Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board, federal and state agencies, museums, and individuals. Program was on Wednesday, November 19 from 3:30-7:00. Kevin has been asked to moderate a panel session on historic preservation on January 28, 2009.

Kaili Payne has some information about the web site program – Adobe Dreamweaver, which costs between 199.00-399.00. The WHC can load the software at the museum and make changes. The domain name from Sundry Solutions was updated this month.

Kevin Kooistra-Manning and Kaili Payne did the mailing for the March 17, Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board Annual Roundtable. We sent an invitation letter, updated the two award forms, and created two pages highlighting each of the past preservation award recipients. One hundred and fifty packets were sent out that included each of the five items. We also sent an email press release to all the media markets. In early March we will make another push for attendance. The award nominees must be submitted by February 6 – this should provide the Board with time to decide the award recipients at the February 17, 2009 board meeting.

Called Jeff Griffin about his concern with access to the historic Myers Trail. He said the Bruce Anderson family provided an easement, which presently allows access to the trail, but the trail could use some basic improvements.

Kevin photographed a demolition at 2511 Second Avenue South. Area is being cleared for the new Mission. There is some interesting debris being left behind. It was a commercial area during the 1920s. Here are a couple items found on the block.



Painted Dish



Large knife butchered bone



Date is set for the Board's Annual Roundtable for Tuesday morning, March 17, 2009, at the Masonic Temple, downtown MSU Billings campus, on North Broadway.

Historic Preservation Officer Report – Dave informed the board the City Zoning Commission will initiate the Zoning Code text amendment for the Historic Preservation Ordinance at the January 6th meeting. This will begin the process for updating the ordinance.

Board Roundtable –

Kevin – Just a note that the WHC will be closed for approximately 2 months beginning after December 27, 2008 to set up new displays. Also, this Thursday, Kevin will be giving a presentation on the first Crow Agency located near Livingston. The presentation begins at noon at the WHC.

Warren – Informed the board that the old Ford's Theater will be re-opening to plays, museum, etc. After President Lincoln's assassination, the theater was closed. In 1953, President Eisenhower re-opened the theater as a museum. In recent years, the building has continued to deteriorate, but with efforts, the building will re-open on Lincoln's birthday.

The next YHPB meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 8:00 a.m. in the large conference room, 4th floor, library.

Meeting adjourned. 8:43 a.m.