



**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  
May 19, 2009

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

**Members Absent** –

**Staff Present** – Kevin Kooistra-Manning and Lora Mattox

**Others Present** – None

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by chair Emelie Eaton. The minutes of the April meeting were approved by a motion made by Warren, seconded by Maisie. Minutes approved.

**Public Comment** – None.

**Member Applications** – The YHPB at the April meeting voted to send a letter to the BOCC asking that the application period be re-opened to allow additional applicants for the YHPB vacancy. The BOCC denied the request. Therefore, the board reviewed the 3 applications submitted by Monica Weldon, Karen Stone and Kyle Rickoff. During discussion the board on a 5-1 vote recommended Kyle Rickoff to the BOCC. One member abstained.

**Work Plan Review** – The board reviewed the 2009-2010 work plan due to the potential of stimulus funding availability for historic preservation projects. From review of the work plan, there are several projects that would benefit from stimulus funding and include:

- Billings Through the Decades panel
- Historic District signage (North Elevation/Minnesota Avenue)
- Downtown Walking Tour
- Assistance to complete National Register nominations for North Elevation/McKinley School
- County Barns National Register Nominations

Kevin will review the work plan and list steps to complete the projects for reference.

**Committee Reports** –

**Historic Preservation Month Committee** – A discussion was held on the Heritage Home Tour held in North Elevation on May 16<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended.

**Publicity Committee** – None.

**Building Permit Review Committee** – None

**Project Reports** - None

## Consultant Report –

### YELLOWSTONE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD – May 19, 2009 *Report by Kevin Kooistra-Manning and Kaili Payne, consultants to the Board.*

Kaili is inputting data from the neighborhood forms and strategy for the North Elevation Register project. A couple more detailed forms came in. Three homeowners inquired about research methods for their Historic Property records as part of adding more home information for the Billings Preservation Society Heritage Home tour event in May.

Kevin, as well as Brian Roberts, attended the North Elevation Task Force meeting on April 21 and provided some house information to Billings Preservation Society (BPS) and coordinated YHPB role for the BPS Heritage Home Tours on Saturday, May 16. Brian suggested some historic aerial photographs, courtesy YHPB, and Kevin agreed to a historical overview slide show. Kevin also provided a disk of historic images to Joan Brownell of the BPS for their historic preservation month home tours.

Kevin attended a College of Technology presentation at the Babcock Theater concerning the use of new technology to assist in preservation renovations.

Kevin presented at the North Elevation panel session at McKinley on Wednesday evening, May 13. He spoke about the history of the neighborhood. Lora Mattox spoke about the National Register. About 25 people attended.

Kaili and Kevin participated in the BPS home tours program on Saturday, May 16. Attendance was excellent and there was great enthusiasm for the BPS heritage home tour. YHPB Board and staff were stationed at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Market and McKinley School and assisted with National Register and history questions. The program ran from 10:00-4:00.

Kathleen Candeleria of the South Side Task Force scheduled Kevin to speak about the National Register on Thursday evening, May 21. South Side Task Force is in the initial stage of exploring a potential neighborhood nomination.

Kevin researched and promoted a downtown walking tour for historic preservation month. Kevin provided a downtown historic walking tour for historic preservation month on Friday morning, May 15, 11:30-1:00. The tour started at the Western Heritage Center and stayed north of the railroad tracks and along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and Montana Avenue.

Kevin wrote and sent a press release for Billings Gazette Achievers announcing the 2009 YHPB recipients of the Best Practices (CTA) and Eugene Carroll Award (Vernon Drake) awards. Sent copy to Kristi Angel, managing editor. Wrote and sent press releases promoting the YHPB Walking Tour scheduled for Friday, May 15.

#### **May 3, 2009, Billings Gazette:**

At the annual Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board Roundtable, the YHPB awarded the 2009 Best Practices Achievement Award to **CTA Architects Engineers** for its adaptive re-use of the Marshall-Wells Building at 13 N. 23rd. The work of CTA and its restoration of the Marshall-Wells building was cited as contributing to the sustainable economic development and the revitalization of the Billings Townsite historic district and Montana Avenue. A special presentation of the 2009 Eugene Carroll Historic Preservation Award was given posthumously to **Vernon Drake**, a major figure in historic preservation in

Yellowstone County. Drake, who died in 2004, was instrumental in saving the Parmly Billings Library building and then creating the Western Heritage Center, which now occupies the historic library building. Drake assisted with the nomination of the Moss Mansion to the National Register of Historic Places, as well as developing the Moss Mansion as a historic house museum. His last major efforts were directed in saving and rebuilding the Twin Monuments, two stone cairns that mark a 19th century military road, 25 miles southwest of Billings.

The Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board, created in 1993 through an inter-local agreement with the city of Billings, city of Laurel, Yellowstone County and the Crow Tribal Council, promotes the preservation of historic and prehistoric sites, buildings and districts. The annual awards recognize achievement in historic preservation for Yellowstone County. For more information, contact the local historic preservation officer, Lora Mattox, at 247-8622, or Emelie Eaton, YHPB board president, at 628-2164.



*Downtown Walking Tour, May 15, 2009*

**Historic Preservation Officer Report** – Lora had nothing more to add.

**Board Roundtable –**

- Kathleen discussed the Columbus workshop “Digging up Treasure”. She reported that it was very informative and has given her direction of the development of educational trunks. She also discussed the development of a new site for the Havre Museum. Finally, she informed the group that the Museum of the Beartooth’s is now open in Columbus
- Maisie reported that the survey work is continuing on Minnesota Avenue. In addition, National Register nominations are being worked on for the Klos and Swift Buildings.
- Julie spoke of the Heritage Home Tour that she helped with on Saturday.
- Bill discussed his firm’s involvement with the redevelopment of the Northern Hotel. Hamilton Hall at MSU is still under renovations. Also, 3 buildings in Yellowstone are being worked on. He also mentioned that the Rialto Theater in Deer Lodge is in need of additional funding to complete renovations.
- Warren discussed the ongoing dispute of a new Wal Mart being developed across from the Wilderness Battlefield. Numerous personalities are involved in trying to prevent the intrusion of a Wal Mart near a vital Civil War Battlefield.

The next YHPB meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16th at 8:00 a.m. in the large conference room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Library.

Meeting adjourned. 9:10 a.m.