



## ***Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board***

*A Certified Local Government (CLG)*

*Program representing four governing bodies:*

*City of Billings*

*Yellowstone County*

*City of Laurel*

*Crow Tribe*

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 24, 2014**

**First Floor Conference Room**

**2825 3rd Avenue North**

**Members Present** –Judy Goldsby, Nancy Curriden, Kevin Nelson, Ellen Kuntz, Liz Harding, Logan Hendricks

**Members Absent** – Tabatha Butler,

**Staff Present** – Lora Mattox, Kevin Kooistra, Elisabeth DeGrenier,

**Others Present** – None

#### **Introductions -**

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented.

**Public Comment** – None.

**SHPO Special Grant** - Lora explained this grant opportunity provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to the board. Last year after the rescission reduced the YHPB funding to \$5225, this year we were informed that we could either return to previous funding level of \$5500 or combine all the funds into a 1-time grant to CLG's. The CLG's decided to do the 1-time grant, therefore, the YHPB is submitting this grant to complete the survey and documentation of the North Elevation neighborhood to complete the National Register Nomination. The grant is due on June 30th with notifications in July/August and grant completion in September of 2015. Kevin teamed with Lora to get the grant done and they will be providing the majority of the work on the grant.

**Member Application** - The board reviewed the applications of Carolyn White to the board. Carolyn brings a lot of knowledge for marketing, etc., but really does not have a background in historic preservation. The only opening on the board at this time is in the inter-local section that requires historic preservation expertise. After discussion, Liz Harding motioned and Judy Goldsby seconded to recommend denial of the application to the Board of County Commissioners. Unanimous vote.

**Consultants Report** – attached

**Tuesday, June 24, 2014**

Report by Kevin Kooistra, Elisabeth DeGrenier, and Lisa Olmsted

### **Community News**

#### **Oral; History Interview**

Following up on a board request, Elisabeth DeGrenier interviewed former City Council member and long-time Southside resident, Jim Ronquillo. Mr. Ronquillo, who recently spoke at the Garfield School's National Register celebration, is well-versed in the history of the neighborhoods south of the railroad tracks. Elisabeth is working on transcribing the audio interview and will provide copies to Mr. Ronquillo. The interview will be placed in the permanent collections of the Western Heritage Center. A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Ronquillo.

#### **The National Register of Historic Places:**

The National Register of Historic Places (NR) is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

A review of the number of buildings listed on the National Register in Yellowstone County, since 1966, includes 30 individual properties, and including the Billings Townsite Historic District (21 contributing properties centered around Montana Avenue), Billings Old Town Historic District (35 contributing properties centered around Minnesota Ave), Laurel Downtown Historic District (59 contributing properties) and the Hoskins Basin Archaeological District (restricted) is at least **145 properties**. Some well-known NR sites in the County are Pictograph Cave, Pompey's Pillar, US Post Office in downtown Billings, Moss Mansion, Babcock Theater, and the Parmly Billings Memorial Library.

North Elevation Historic District / McKinley School National Register Nomination news: A small grant is being written to the State Historic Preservation Office / CLG Special Project Subgrants to help expedite the nomination which has stalled for a couple years. The North Elevation Task Force also recently assigned a new committee to re-energize the project, with Shauna Kerr in charge. This would be the first residential district in Yellowstone County and add another 100 properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Historic Preservation Review / Community Assistance / News**

Reviewed two cell tower proposals: 1. BIL West End Communications Facility, 3300 West Central Avenue, Billings, 59101 (55 foot high monopole and equipment shelter) and 2. BIL Shepherd Communications Facility, 8125 Shepherd Road, Shepherd, 59079 (105 self-support tower, cable bridge, and fencing). Both properties are in the vicinity of historic working irrigation systems which will not be impacted by the proposed undertakings. Cultural Resource assessments at both sites stated that no historic properties will be affected.

Kevin Kooistra provided the Planning Department with a historic downtown walking tour on June 5.

The YHPB board and staff were given a tour of the new public library.

Kevin sent the MPA and SHPO a copy of the 1939 Lewistown Stampede publication (with a history and overview of the city – full of images of historic buildings) for their Montana Preservation Road Show at Lewistown on June 11-14. The document comes from a recently scanned document from the Billings Public Library.

Lisa Olmsted updated the YHPB web site with the list of new board members and updated the meeting locations.

**Historic Preservation Officer Report** - Lora has been on vacation and has nothing further to report other than the grant that was discussed earlier

### **Board Roundtable –**

- Kevin K discussed the West High School exhibit relating to Not In Our Town. Exhibit will be up until December. Also, there will be continuing speaker series in the fall. See following page.
- Logan - He will be traveling to Chicago for an AIA conference, and taking in a Cubs game!
- Judy - her daughter recently purchased a 1790 homestead in Connecticut with a barn constructed in 1838. Judy will be traveling out there in September.
- Liz - the YAM will be hosting a Vintage Vehicle show, if it is anything like the Vintage Bicycle Show, it will be very successful!
- Lora - encourages all board members to view the Facebook pages for the State HPO and the YHPB page.

The next meeting will be on July 15th. Location to be determined.



# The Montana Inspiration Project



This series is sponsored in part by the Tippet Rise Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation. Thank you!



2822 Montana Avenue  
Billings, MT 59101

[www.ywhc.org](http://www.ywhc.org)  
406-256-6809



## *Reflections on Place*

Montana is fertile ground for artists and musicians. Their works are personal with details of their day to day life and people of the region. This series brings four creative people to lead us through their story and the visions they draw from as they share their work with the public.

- June 19: **Patrick Zentz**, Artist
- July 17: **Danielle Egnew**, Musician
- July 31: **Earthshine**, Musicians
- August 7: **Charles Ringer**, Artist
- August 21: **Yellowstone Woodturners Club**, Artists
- September 18: **Tami Haaland**, Poet Laureate

## *Designing Innovators*

Montana-inspires designers in many fields. This series brings together Montanans who have won national acclaim for technical design and innovations in their respective fields.

- October 16: **David North**, Designer for General Motors
- November 6: **Frederick Clayton Jackson**, Toy Sculptor for Ideal, Steuben, Royal Doulton, Avon & Mattel
- November 20: **Bruce Ryniker**, Designer for Chrysler & Mattel's Hot Wheels
- December 18: **Jim McDonald**, Architect & Preservationist

Community 7 TV Schedule: Following the day of the noon-hour lecture, the program will also air on Community 7 Friday at 5pm, Saturday at 10am and 4pm, and Sunday at 7am. Programs can also be streamed online at [www.comm7tv.com](http://www.comm7tv.com).

*Join us at Noon  
each third Thursday!*