



## **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**

**August 18, 2015**

**First Floor Conference Room**

**2825 3rd Avenue North**

**Members Present** – Nancy Curriden, Liz Harding, Blain Fandrich and Kevin Nelson

**Members Absent** – Judy Goldsby, Tabatha Butler and Logan Hendricks

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

**Others Present** – Lynda Woods, Community Development Division and Edward Saunders

**Minutes** - The minutes of the July meeting were approved on a motion from Liz, seconded by Kevin. Approved.

**Public Comment** – None.

**CDBG Rehab Review – 619 Custer Avenue** – The board reviewed the property on Custer Avenue. This property was constructed in 1948 and work proposed is the replacement of the main entry door and storm door, rear exterior door, and replacement of windows. This is a property that was foreclosed on and the City Billings purchased. The city will complete the rehabilitation of the property and re-sell to an income qualified applicant. This house is currently a 2-bedroom home, the plan includes installing an egress window in the basement to add a third bedroom. The windows will be replaced with the same configuration but be vinyl, not wood. The door replacement will be with solid core steel doors. Blain stated that after he reviewed this property, he would classify the architectural style to Minimalist Traditional. Nancy asked if the existing shutters be maintained. Lynda stated that there is no work planned for the siding, but if funding allow, the shutters will be re-painted. Liz motioned for approval of federal funds for this rehab project, Kevin seconded. Motion approved.

**North Elevation Historic District –**

During the month of July and August, we have begun to write the historic narratives for each property. Much of the owner research has been completed. Michaela Shifley, a WHC employee, is adding researching for the properties that were added in the past few months. Elisabeth has received architectural descriptions from Ed Gulick and is waiting on the last few batches from the other architects. Kevin and Elisabeth are creating a new timeline based on the short extension for getting the individual and overall narratives completed. Two responses came from the 90 letters sent to neighbors in July about any additional information or abstracts from the neighborhood.

The WHC and YHPB received an extension of three weeks from the State Historic Preservation Office to deliver the 155 Montana Historic Property Records and a draft of the National Register Nomination for the North Elevation. The final deadline is September 21, 2015. Staff is reviewing best examples of National Historic District from Missoula with attached historic property records from this nomination.

### **Consultant's Report –**

Two YHPB projects, the Montana Avenue Banners Project and Brochure and the Downtown Electronic Walking Tour are merging into one walking tour app. The Western Heritage Center (WHC) hosted a launch party of the update of the YHPB Historical Walking Tour app on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 during Art Walk. The Downtown Billings Association received a grant through Tiip and replaced the historical banners, as well as added corresponding historical text panels on adjacent poles. The text for the panels is derived from the 1996 Montana Avenue Banners Project of the WHC and YHPB. The Banners project text is being mapped and added to the YHPB electronic walking tour. The updating of the YHPB electronic walking tour has been done by Lisa Olmsted at the WHC. The WHC also added an IPAD Air tablet and stand at the museum that displays the updated YHPB electronic walking tour. The WHC will also be able to better incorporate the YHPB electronic walking tour through a second IPAD Air tablet reserved for walking tours.

Historic review of 619 Custer Avenue of doors and windows for Community Development Block Grant funds.

Reviewed and sent photographs of Mrs. Browning's Furnished Rooms at 121 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street to the SHPO. According to the SHPO historic property record from Anthony Wood, the two-story building, built in the Folk National style, was the home and business of Belle Browning. Belle Browning operated her furnished rooms from the Browning house at 121 S. 26<sup>th</sup> Street until her death around 1922. All of the lodgers listed as living at Mrs. Browning's furnished rooms were African American.

**Historic Preservation Officer Report** - Lora informed the board that the grant extension is in routing for the City Administrator's signature and should be finalized in a week or so. Lora informed the board that she had a conference call for discussion on moving forward with a difference project since the FCC rejected the Rimrocks Art project. Lora proposed the completion of two National Register nominations for Pioneer Park as a regional park and South Park as a neighborhood park. Lora will keep the board updated.

**Board Roundtable** – Liz informed the board that the 1914 portion of the Yellowstone Art Museum will be removing the lead paint from the building. Kevin announced that this Thursday's High Noon Speaker series is hosting Kristi Hager who will present on the artistry of historic black and white photography.

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.