



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

**September 18, 2018
First Floor Conference Room
2825 3rd Avenue North**

Members Present – Sue Mueller, Evan Bruce, Allen Rapacz and Blain Fandrich

Members Absent – Tracy Livingston and Kevin Nelson

Staff Present – Lora Mattox, Lauren Hunley and Kevin Kooistra

Others Present –

Welcome – Blain welcomed Evan, Lauren and the board to the meeting. Roundtable introductions were made.

Minutes - The minutes of the July meeting were approved on a motion by Sue, seconded by Blain.

Public Comment – No public.

Inter-local Member Application – Lora presented the application for the unfilled Inter-local position to the board. Rebecca Jeter is highly educated with a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation. The last 17 years she has been a stay at home mom and prior has experience as a reference librarian and local history specialist. Alan motions for to recommend Becky to the BOCC for appointment, Evan seconds. Approved.

Consultant's Report – *Attached at the end of the minutes.*

Historic Preservation Officer Report – Lora shared the following with the board:

- Passed out the Save the Date card for the Volunteer Dinner hosted by the City of Billings;
- The Semi-annual CLG report will be due in October for the period of April 1 – September 30, 2018;
- Lora emailed out the link to the One Big Sky website;
- Lora reminded the board of the Montana History Conference here in Billings from September 27-29. Lora will send out the link to the conference;
- Lora shared the email from Matt Schutz from the magazine American Spirit.

Board Roundtable – Evan shared that the Kings Coin Laundromat building is being rehabilitated!

The next meeting – October 16th

Consultant's Report:

Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board (YHPB)

Western Heritage Center (WHC) Consultant Report for August and September, 2018

Kevin Kooistra and Lauren Hunley - September 18, 2018

Goals & Objectives of YHPB:

- I. Promote the preservation of historic buildings, sites or neighborhoods.
- II. Increase community awareness on the benefits of historic preservation activities.
- III. Promote increased awareness of preservation activities and the work of the YHPB through the four governing bodies represented on the Board.
- IV. Comply with the duties and responsibilities of historic preservation organizations under the State Certified Local Government Program and the requirements of the Inter-local Agreement.

Consultant Change from WHC

Lauren Hunley, the museum's new Community Historian, will step into the role of YHPB consultant. Lauren will attend meetings and work with the YHPB Board and HPO Lora Mattox to address the Board's priorities in the annual work plan. Lauren started on September 3, 2018.

National Register Nomination Research

The Western Heritage Center hired Ann Kooistra-Manning in August to perform historic research for the Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board. Ann's 70 hours of research keeps us updated on hours through early October.

The Billings Mausoleum at Mountview Cemetery

- Have the land records.
- Identified the architect, builder and contractor (all buried in the mausoleum).
- Provided newspaper and historical content.
- Research about the Community Mausoleum Movement (only 3 mausoleums in Montana).

Need: Detailed contemporary photographic work.

Need: Cecelia Gavinsky, museum collection's manager, researching at Bozeman next weekend to find J.G. Link drawings of the mausoleum.

Need: Pursuit of National Register will need City of Billings' permission.

Riverside Park, Laurel (German POW camp)

- Land ownership and land records.
- Provided newspaper and historical content.

Need: Detailed contemporary photographic work.

Need: Pursuit of National Register will need City of Laurel permission.

Community Work

WHC delivered historic information about Orchard School, for their 100th Anniversary in 1919, to the school and press.

Consultant's Report Continued

Community Work

The Mountain-Plains Museum Conference (Sept 11-15) and Montana Historical Society Conference (Sept 27-29) were / are in Billings this September.

Melissa Schnitzmeier, Principal/Superintendent, **Pioneer Elementary**, is interested in learning about the National Register of Historical Places. Built in 1905, Pioneer School is an independent school in the Heights. Chandler Cohagen was architect for the 1959/60 addition. WHC will share information about the National Register and archival materials with them.



Demolition

There are plans to tear down the historic home at 2226 Virginia Lane for a minor subdivision on Virginia Lane. YHPB does not have any jurisdiction for this property. Cecelia Gavinsky, museum collection's manager, photographed the exterior of the property before demolition. The home was built around 1920-25. The Alver Hammerstrom family lived in the home in the late 1920s through the early 1950s. Alver Hammerstrom, age 36, is listed as the general manager of a grocery chain in 1930 (Sawyer Store by the Union Railroad Depot on Montana Avenue). Born in Melville of Norwegian and Swedish parents, Alver was living in the house in 1930 with Elsie, his wife, four children, and their servant. The Hadleys moved in shortly after Alver died in 1953. Preliminary research (the chimney) indicates this might be a Chandler Cohagen design.



2226 Virginia Lane, August 28, 2018