

Historic Resources Board Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 10 AM
Community Service Center, 118 E. 7th, 3rd Floor Conference Rm

1. Call To Order (10AM) by Chair Mary Lynn McKenna
Present: Mary Lynn McKenna, Vice-Chair Bob Wren (by phone), Terry LaValley, Rose Nyman, Carl Hamming, Gayla Hess, and members of the public per sign-in sheet

Absent(excused): Lynette Foulger

2. Welcome New Member
Chair McKenna and board welcomed Terry LaValley to the board.

3. Previous Meeting Minutes

Rose Nyman suggested an addition to the minutes- a note that the County Attorney will look into advertising on county property.

Mary Lynn McKenna clarified that she had volunteered to introduce the February speaker and noted a typo (Mach, March).

Rose Nyman motioned to approve the minutes with corrections and Bob Wren seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: None.

Documents:

[01-13-22 HRB MINUTES_DRAFT1.PDF](#)

4. Unfinished Business

- 4.I. CLG 2022 Grant Application
Update on 2022-2023 CLG year application

Gayla Hess reported that the application was approved by the Commission on Tuesday and that it would be submitted to SHPO today.

Public Comment: None.

- 4.II. Speaker Series
Continued planning for 2022 Anaconda's Past, community speaker series, including:

- review of Leader ad
 - one 2x3 (\$42/print)
 - publish dates: March 2 and 9
- tasks and volunteers for next event(s)
- memorabilia fundraiser (photos, newspaper prints,...), including donations
- vintage sports apparel (February event)

Mary Lynn McKenna told the group that she liked the ad, the fish, and thought the suggested publish dates gave people who receive the Leader by mail enough notice of the event. Bob Wren also liked the fish in the March ad.

Chair McKenna reminded the group that she will be unable to attend the March event and asked for a volunteer to introduce the speaker. Terry LaValley agreed to MC.

Rose Nyman reported that she has contacted The Forge about the space for the next event (restaurant, or a divided large conference room) and will pass along the location when she hears. Carl Hamming noted the restaurant space might be better as the booths filled up quickly. Rose and Mary Lynn expressed concern about additional time for staff to sanitize the restaurant area after the event.

Rose Nyman encouraged everyone to wear vintage sports apparel on February 10th. Rose also shared that the trophy inventory list is 17 pages. She would like to include the first two pages and an excerpt from Mary Dolan's book with the series schedule as a handout. Carl Hamming agreed to make the copies. Rose volunteered to assemble the handout packets.

Volunteers & Tasks:

- Bob Wren will reach out to high school contact to borrow recording equipment and plans to arrive at The Forge early to setup the camera
- Bob Wren and Rose Nyman will coordinate to bring trophies
- Rose Nyman has 2 sports photos for the memorabilia fundraiser

Gayla Hess recognized Mary Lynn McKenna for her January presentation. Bob Wren and Rose Nyman spoke of all the positive feedback they have heard about the event.

Bob Wren asked if any suggestions for future topics were received at the January event. Rose Nyman confirmed that none were added to the suggestion box. She also reported that no funds were raised through the historic photos and that the last minute change of venue may have contributed to this, the lack of written suggestions, and part of why some folks didn't add their names to the sign-in sheet.

Rose Nyman informed the group that the CEO has agreed to support the series by paying for cookies and bottled water, and that a \$500 line-item will be part of the next budget.

Rose Nyman made a motion to approve the March ad and Bob Wren seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment: None.

Documents:

[HISTORICRESOURCE-MARCH.PDF](#)

4.III HRB Work Plan

Continued consideration of tasks with focus on implementation actions for the 2022-2023 work plan including:

- tasks, budget, schedules, and HRB representatives for each task
- working draft of overall task timeline

[2022 WORK PLAN DRAFT 12-03-21.PDF](#)

[HPP INIATIVES PROJECT SCHEDULE WORKING DRAFT 12-03-21.PDF](#)

Group reviewed each item of the draft work plan; updated plan attached. Initiatives with additional discussion included:

2.3.1 Prepare a map/targeted list of potential building candidates for a formal adaptive reuse program.

Rose Nyman questioned if Discover Anaconda (formerly Anaconda Local Development Corporation), URA Board/Downtown TIF administrators, would invoice the URA for time spent on this task. Gayla Hess is to check.

1.8.1 Identify oral history topics as part of future survey & documentation projects

Bob Wren asked how the group could help encourage suggestions from speaker series event attendees and suggested that sheets could be provided at seats. Gayla Hess offered to encourage suggestions in Anaconda's Past emails.

3.5.3 Consider allocating portions of local taxes/fees to create a historic preservation fund

Janice Delaney asked why it was recommended that this task be delayed. Carl Hamming explained that this may not align with focus of the Commission or Administration at this time.

Janice Delaney then spoke of her concern about an area where historic streetlighting is not present.

Terry LaValley asked about public support and if a grassroots initiative could help make this fund possible. Bob Wren said that he would like this task to be part of the work plan as it could be a way to raise funds for the necessary Glover Cabin foundation work. Carl Hamming thought a request in the budget for a one-time, project specific item could be possible especially if public support (and a donated match) could be shown.

Rose Nyman asked about levies and noted that with state deadlines it would be difficult to get this on an upcoming ballot. Terry LaValley expressed concern about accumulated funds and the limit of held funds in an account based on state law.

Bob Wren discussed Capital Improvement Plans and thought that funding and a specific timeline for Glover Cabin work could be included.

4.8.1 Create a set of policies re: commission & installation of public art in Anaconda...

Rose Nyman asked what would be considered art. Mary Lynn McKenna mentioned sculptures and murals and Gayla Hess noted the art would be outside the sign ordinance.

3.3.1 Consider lowering the required match from 50% to 30% for Downtown TIF...

Rose Nyman stated that she would like to readdress this item in a month and asked fellow URA member, Carl Hamming, if he thought the board would support this item.

Bob Wren asked if funds aren't being used and if this incentive to apply is needed. Rose Nyman said it is a competitive process now.

Mary Lynn McKenna suggested that the item could be tabled. Gayla Hess reminded the group that initiatives aren't requirements and some items may be added to a work plan, considered, and might be determined not to align with community goals or needs.

3.3.2 Consider waiving permit fees & expediting permit approval for historic properties when meeting preservation standards and guidelines

Carl Hamming has not seen cases where permit fees were the obstacle for development and told the group how fees are lower now than a few years ago.

Rose Nyman wondered if the public was aware that they may make a request to the Commission for graduated taxes for a fixed timeframe. Janice Delaney suggested publishing information in the Leader.

4.8.2 Consider devoting 1% of the URA funds or other for installation of public art...

Rose Nyman suggested putting this item on hold. Bob Wren asked about overall URA funding and how much 1% might be. Carl Hamming estimated 1% of funds to be around \$1,000 and explained URA funding categories, including community improvement projects such as the downtown snow removal and the upcoming Durston Park project. Rose said the warming hut was partially funded as a community improvement project and that this category does not require a match.

5.1.10 Host a preservation booth at the annual Smeltermen's Day celebration

Rose Nyman said that she has numerous photos of past Smeltermen's Days. Mary Lynn McKenna thought displaying these photos might be fun and offered to help with a booth.

5.1.4 Organize hands-on preservation workshops with local craftsmen

Gayla Hess thought this could be a quarterly or regular event and spoke of reaching out to someone in Butte who has experience hosting brick preservation workshops for a possible event. Janice Delaney encouraged finding Anacondans for the workshops.

Terry LaValley thought the foundry and its heavy industrial history should be considered. He spoke of how they have every pattern for every piece of machinery made there. Chair McKenna told the group that the railroad museum had forms (all made of pine) for an exhibit.

5.8.2 Update the Planning webpage or create a dedicated preservation page

Mary Lynn McKenna suggested a "This Day In History" feature. Rose Nyman would like to include a list of reference books.

5. New Business

5.1. Preservation Month Planning May activity/event planning

Mary Lynn McKenna introduced the idea of an essay contest for students with options for students to write about Anaconda's people, events, or buildings. Gayla Hess reported contacting a teacher who would be willing to help with the contest, would consider assigning the research paper as an assignment, and who would then help select essays for HRB review. Rose Nyman said she liked the idea. Mary Lynn offered to help with writing prompts.

Chair McKenna offered to donate for cash prizes. Rose Nyman thought Washoe Theatre tickets could be part of a prize. Mary Lynn also suggested gift certificates to Dairy Queen. Bob Wren joked the winner might like to be a speaker for Anaconda's Past.

Terry LaValley made a motion to select an essay contest as the May activity and Rose Nyman seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Janice Delaney suggested that the students could interview old-timers.

6. Miscellaneous/Announcements

a. Board –

Rose Nyman would like those seeking letters of support to come to the meeting to present and answer any questions the HRB may have.

Rose Nyman shared that she learned Rosemary Silzly's mother, Mille Mathews, used to serve as a young girl in the home of Morgan Evans.

Gayla Hess told the HRB she had been contacted by a consultant researching the Starr block as part of nomination highlighting Black History in Montana, and that information about the project had been emailed to them just prior to the meeting.

b. Public –

Janice Delaney asked if it was ok that she had been commenting throughout the meeting and Mary Lynn McKenna assured her public participation is important.

7. Public Comment- This is the time for the public to comment on items not appearing on the agenda that fall within the board's jurisdiction

Janice Delaney spoke of a sketch for a park where the racetrack was. She told the group that it was an idea to beatify the area and highlight Tammany as Marcus Daly's favorite horse. Mary Lynn McKenna asked if the park was in the Park & Rec's jurisdiction and Carl Hamming confirmed that it is a dedicated park.

8. Next Meeting: March 3rd at 10AM at the Community Service Center (3rd floor conference room)

Note: Anaconda's Past, a community speaker series event, will be held February 10th at Noon at The Forge.

Event was attended by Chair Mary Lynn McKenna, Vice-Chair Bob Wren, Rose Nyman, Terry LaValley, Carl Hamming, Gayla Hess and ~40 members of the public.
Audio recording of Jeff Frank's sports presentation is available online

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YVInU7BXCQmWDy_qJez1BRkWIGWsZVRY/view?usp=sharing

9. Adjournment (11:10AM)

Minutes approved at the 03/03/22 meeting. *JH*

Gayla Hess

From: Gayla Hess
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Bob wren; Lynette Foulger; Mary Lynn McKenna; Rose Nyman; Terry LaValley
Subject: FW: Starr Block

Hi all:

During miscellaneous I'll be mentioning the Starr Block and Delia's work with SHPO for a nomination focused on Black History in Montana.

Please see below for additional details.

Thanks.

Gayla

From: Delia Hagen <deliahagen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Gayla Hess <ghess@adlc.us>
Subject: Re: Starr Block

Thank you gayla!

I realize upon checking my schedule I'll likely still be in a meeting myself at that time. Feel free to share the summary I sent, and what I would really love—if my dreams came true—would be to find photos or other material from the time when Driver's saloon occupied the Starr block (which is attached to the Ida block so pics of the Ida block might show it—I found one yesterday of the Ida block—23 main—that showed just a little of the Starr. But any historic photos of the building from any time prior to 1980 would be great, as would any information on the Drivers or other Black anaconda (or MT) residents. I have the new Haffey book (which is where I found the picture that partially showed the Starr block).

Briefly about myself, I'm a Missoula native who has worked as a professional historian for 25 years, and I specialize in the history of the West and MT in particular (My PhD at UC Berkeley focused on indigenous history in the MT region). I'm nominating Driver's Saloon and Cafe to the National Register of Historic Places in conjunction with a larger project on the history and historic places of Black Montana that I'm completing for the State Historic Preservation Office.

I hope to have a draft NRHP nomination to them in the first half of March so would especially love any info that anyone can find this month. (But would welcome it afterward too as it will be a while before the project is finalized).

Thank you so much for your help—really looking forward to what you find title-wise too. Very curious if Driver ever owned the building (or any other property in town, so keep your eyes peeled for that surname in the deed records from ca 1893-1917).

Oh on a side note I noticed yesterday that the NRHP signs on the building are reversed—the Ida Block sign is hung on the Starr Block and the Lee driver sign is hung on the Ida block. Sven said he mentioned it to someone so you're probably already aware of it but I thought he I'd mention it just in case. Sven also said that the Driver's granddaughter Lisa (he couldn't remember her last name) still lives in anaconda and works in the courthouse for the sanitation department maybe? It'd be great to connect with her...

Thanks again for all your help! Anaconda has such a rich history and I'm glad we are getting to document and honor another piece of it...

Best,
Delia

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2022, at 11:00 AM, Gayla Hess <ghess@adlc.us> wrote:

Hi Delia,

Thank you for sending along additional info! If you are still interested in briefly joining our Historic Resources Board meeting by phone tomorrow, I could give you a call possibly around 10:45 to 11AM? It's only an estimate as it's too late to amend the agenda . If you have a bit of flexibility for tomorrow morning, I could call you during public comment and you could share a bit of background for your project and how we might be able to help during public comment. Please let me know if you're available and the best number to call.

I'll get back to you again once I've had a chance to look at deeds for previous owners.

Gayla Hess
[Planning Department](#)
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
T: 406-563-4012 | M: 406-479-4710

From: Delia Hagen <deliahagen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Gayla Hess <ghess@adlc.us>
Subject: Re: Starr Block

You don't often get email from deliahagen@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I wanted to give you the working summary I've written up for the Driver's Saloon and Cafe site (Starr Block) for your reference. This is just a working draft, but provides a little detail/context.

From ca. 1909-1915, Driver's Saloon and Café occupied the Starr Block, built in 1889, which is significant as a residential and commercial property associated with the history of Black Montana. Occupied by Anaconda's most prominent Black businessman, who operated a bar and restaurant on the premises, the brick two-story commercial block initially also housed Lee Pleasant and Pearl Payne Driver and their toddler son Lee Jr. above their street-level saloon and eatery, which was prominently situated at the intersection of Main St. and Commercial Avenue. The 104-106 E. Commercial establishment was the last and largest of the restaurant and bar businesses that Lee Driver operated near the central downtown intersection of Main and

Commercial for some twenty years (ca. 1895-1915). Driver, a Fisk graduate and 25th Infantry veteran, had operated a saloon in Missoula ca. 1892-93, and his Anaconda saloon and café was the most visible and substantial Black-owned business in town. It not only served African American and other customers but also functioned as a focal point, and physical and institutional core, of the local Black community, an exemplar of Black achievement, and an autonomous space managed by, and supportive of, African American residents.

Driver's Saloon and Café represents two of the five historic contexts documented in the [forthcoming] *Black Montana's Heritage Places Multiple Property Documentation*, i.e. "III. The Heyday of Black Montana, ca. 1877-1910s," and "IV. A Shifting West: Decline, Ascent & Endurance in Montana's Black Community, ca. 1910s-1940." Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Driver's Saloon and Café is significantly associated with the Montana African American community during the community's peak years in the early 20th century, and closed during Black Montana's post-1910 contraction. The property's period of significance thus extends from the Drivers' initial rental of the property, ca. 1909, to 1915, when they closed their downtown bar and café business and moved about 10 miles east of town (near Opportunity), where they homesteaded, and in 1923 patented, 275 acres of land. On their homestead, the Drivers raised six children while Lee worked for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Their descendants went on to become prominent members of Montana's Black community in their own right, and the family continues to be an integral part of the state.

Delia Hagen, PhD
Historical Consulting
www.deliahagen.com

On Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 04:22:01 PM MST, Delia Hagen <deliahagen@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you gayla this came thru great!

Delia

Delia Hagen, PhD
Historical Consulting
www.deliahagen.com

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 1, 2022, at 4:13 PM, Gayla Hess <ghess@adlc.us> wrote:

Hi Delia,

Here's the link to the website with the photos

<https://www.anacondaasshewas.com/>

Gayla Hess

[Planning Department](#)

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

T: 406-563-4012 | M: 406-479-4710