

– D E S T I N A T I O N – FORT BENTON

DFB Meeting 6.9.2025

Present: Lanny, Joellyn, Karen, Beth, Shannon, Jenice, Kate, Connie, Colette

Treasurer report:

We received our first reimbursement from the grant and will be able to reimburse the Chamber for the Roger Brooks Assessment.

Reimagining Rural grant for \$1750.

\$10,000 anonymous donation.

Committee Reports:

Branding committee: RFP was written by Joellyn. The committee has weighed in. It will be going out to several agencies. They will be given a month to respond, then the scope of work will need to be done by November.

Master Plan: Typically phased over 20 years. Includes 3 areas: Downtown Beautification, Levy Park (Between Visitor Center and Grand Union), and Fort Park, inclusive of the Fort, the pool, skatepark, splashpad.

Putting together the RFP will be a bit of a process.

What is the city's agreement with Bearpaw/Havre? They managed all the finances for the funding for the water tank, about 7 million dollars. They will write grants, help plug them into State funding.

Photo and video assets: We have \$10,000 in our budget to spend on photo/video assets. Central Montana Tourism has hired Jared's Detours to handle this and they have offered an add on package (\$2000) to come specifically to Fort Benton. It was a great value and the officers agreed that this would be good to pursue.

Joellyn is meeting with Eric Visocan to talk about putting together a media package as well.

Should we do a photo submission contest? Everyone liked that idea.

Misc.

Karen reported on the youth space in the basement of the church; it is moving slowly due to staffing requirements so youth aren't unsupervised. They are looking for volunteers. Volunteers have to do church training and have background checks.

For those who don't know, we have been accepted to Montana Main Street! As part of the program, there are monthly meetings (2nd Wednesday of every month); anyone can get the link, just ask Joellyn.

Did you know? The CIA had a table at the Governor's Conference on Tourism every year for about 25 years.

Ken Robison suggested we could approach Virginia City as a "Sister City."

Lanny told us about the Virginia/Nevada city website with interactive map, see that [here](#):

List of Mainstreet Montana communities [here:](#)
(2025 is not yet listed.)

Link to sign up for a committee at the project portal located [here:](#)

Respectfully submitted by Colette Tihista-Longin