

— D E S T I N A T I O N — FORT BENTON

Date: December 8, 2025

Present: Joellyn Clark, Jenice Fugere, Kristi Johnson, Raymond Gonzales, Ani Gonzales, Karen Giles, Shannon Wald, Colette Longin, Renee McDonald

Guests: Sub-grant recipients (see names next to reports below #4)

1. Approve minutes
2. Treasurer's report ****see attached**
3. President's report (Shannon)
 - a. Shoutout to Whitley at the city, she is participating on the Mainstreet committee as a city representative. She is willing to handle grant money.
 - b. The grants for Reimagining Rural have gone up to \$7500 (from \$2000). (Thinking an event marketing packet). Meetings will happen 3 weeks in a row in February 4, 11 & 18. Shannon will head up, but will need a committee to put the application together.
 - c. Fort Shaw Women's Basketball history update ("Full Court Quest")
 - i. Possible visit in May from the author
 - ii. Ken Robison (local historian) is interested in being a liaison to tribe for verbiage, etc.
 - iii. Mural: Chris will get in touch with Riley (artist), TJ Comstock (FB Hardware) will pay for the paint. Will plan to do it over 2 weeks in May.
4. Sub-grant project reports
 - a. Saint Paul's Episcopal Church - \$5000 (Dean Glawe) ***waiting on hardware for doors.**
 - b. Fort Benton GFWC Women's Club - \$2000 (Ani/Karen) ***ordering signs, will use up balance.**
 - c. Chouteau County Fair - \$3700 ***still waiting (manager position is vacated now)**
 - d. Chouteau County Performing Arts - \$5000 (Jenice) **Still gathering invoices.**
 - e. Palace Bar - \$2500 ***completed***
 - f. Chouteau County Fine Arts Council - \$1800 (Juli) ***owner has pulled the project. There may be options for the panels to be placed in other businesses. 7/9 panels have committed artists. Thinking Ag Center/outdoor display, or possibly a traveling project to store fronts around town. Juli is asking for the community to write letters to the editor in support of the panels.**
 - g. Chamber of Commerce - \$5000 ***completed***
5. Share State of the Summer data
 - a. Road Show (CIA, River and Plains, Chamber?) Joellyn shared powerpoint/placer ai information. This info will be great to have for future marketing.
6. Main Street Montana update
 - a. Committee; if you want to be part of the committee, anyone is welcome
 - b. Annual agreement/report needs to be submitted; committee met, Joellyn wrote it up, committee looked it over & approved.
 - c. 60 minute monthly zoom calls; if you want link, let Joellyn know
 - d. City needs to be involved on some level, hopefully monetarily, at some point. Need to start conversation with the city.
 - e. Grant was submitted (signage); should hear in January or February
7. Active Project Committee Updates
 - a. Photo and Video Assets; will reach out to community for specific photos
 - b. Branding; a little behind but is still active.

- c. Master planning; taking longer than hoped. They've sent a preliminary map. They will hold some stakeholder meetings in January (Trails, signage, parks, downtown beautification)
- d. Data / [Placer.ai](#)—Shannon / Ani update; see above 5a
- e. Website—Will start being built after January 1, 2026. May need help with writing informational parts of the site; keep an eye out for an email.
- 8. Reimagining Rural update; see above 3a
- 9. Signage update
 - a. Current sign sponsor names will remain. New sign sponsor names will have to pay and they need to come up with the amount.
- 10. Review meeting schedule

Upcoming meetings: January 12, 2026, 7 pm at Grand Union

Respectfully submitted by Colette Tihista-Longin, Secretary



TREASURY REPORT

PILOT GRANT YEAR 1 = \$250,000

	PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	PCTGP BUDGET	BUDGET EXPENDED	BUDGET REMAINING	UPCOMING EXPENSES
1	Engineering/Master Planning	\$75,000.00	\$12,450.00	\$62,550.00	
2	Brand and Style Guide Development	\$10,000.00	\$4,875.00	\$5,125.00	
3	Photo and Video Asset Library	\$10,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$7,800.00	
4	Redesign fortbenton.com website	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
5	Tourism Asset Survey	\$28,000.00	\$26,962.35	\$1,037.65	
6	Placer.ai tourism data service	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00	\$0.00	
7	Wayfinding Signage	\$28,800.00		\$28,800.00	
8	Grant within a Grant program	\$25,000.00	\$7,722.36	\$17,277.64	
9	Grant Administration	\$45,000.00	\$5,683.89	\$39,316.11	
10	Steering Committee travel and training expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,075.40	-\$75.40	
11	Steering Committee meeting & planning space rent	\$3,600.00	\$165.90	\$3,434.10	
12	Steering Committee Meeting & Printing expenses	\$400.00	\$58.35	\$341.65	
	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$250,000.00	\$74,393.25	\$175,606.75	

REIMAGINING RURAL GRANT

	GRANT	INCOME	EXPENSE	COST
1	2025 Reimagining Rural	\$1,750.00	Chouteau County Fine Arts Council supplies	\$437.50
	2026 Reimagining Rural		Methodist Church Youth Center- game console	\$199.99
			REMAINING BALANCE	\$1,112.51

2025 SUB-GRANTS

	SUB-GRANT Awardee	TOTAL AWARD	BUDGET SPENT	BUDGET REMAINING	
1	Chouteau County Fine Arts Council	\$1,800.00	\$1,568.36	\$231.64	
2	Chouteau County Performing Arts	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
3	Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
4	Chouteau County Fair	\$3,700.00	\$0.00	\$3,700.00	
5	GFWC Fort Benton Women's Club	\$2,000.00	\$1,154.00	\$846.00	
6	Palace Bar	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
7	St. Pauls Episcopal Church	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	

NON-GRANT

	DONATIONS	INCOME	EXPENSE	COST
1	Anonymous	\$10,000.00	Post Office Box	\$82.00
2	Contribution	\$1.00	Stamps	\$7.30
3			501c3 application fee - reimburse Shannon Wald	\$319.00
4			Pioneer Insurance	\$3,145.00
5			Parade banners - reimburse Joellyn Clark	\$112.43
6			501c3 application fee - reimburse Jenice Fugere	\$295.00
7			Fort Benton (Northwest) Hardware	\$129.93
8			Checks- Harland Clark	\$40.37
9			Fort Benton (Northwest) Hardware	\$7.11
10			Fort Benton (Northwest) Hardware	\$50.47
11				
12				
13				
		\$10,001.00		\$4,188.61

REMAINING BALANCE

\$5,812.39

BANK BALANCE 12/2/2025

\$7,562.39