— DESTINATION —
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)

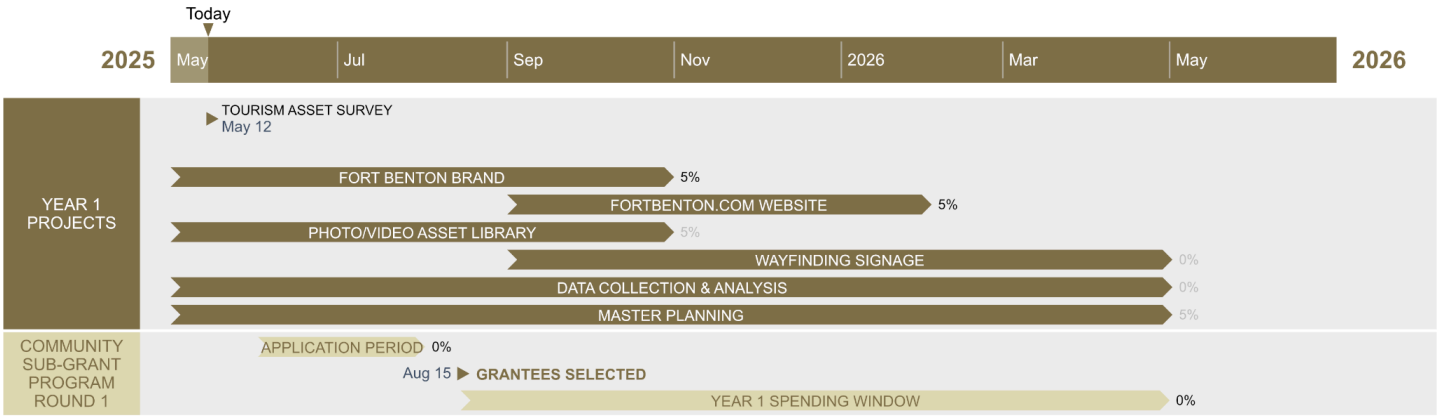
1. Approve minutes
2. Treasurer's report ****see attached**
3. President's report (Shannon)
    a. Shoutout to Whitley at the city, she is participating on the Mainstreet committee as a city representative. She is willing to handle grant money.
    b. The grants for Reimagining Rural have gone up to $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 - reimbruse Shannon Wald	$319.00
4			Pioneer Insurance	$3,145.00
5			Parade banners - reimbruse Joellyn Clark	$112.43
6			501c3 application fee - reimbruse 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**