

FRIENDS OF THE STORY MANSION (FOSM)
Quarterly Report Second Qtr. 2021
July 1, 2021

Greetings from your Board of the Friends of the Story Mansion (FOSM): this is our second quarterly report for 2021! Your board members (President, Felix Spinelli; Secretary and Treasurer, Michele Soldner; Laurie Neil; and long-standing board members Jane Klockman, Elizabeth Darrow, and Lee Wagner). Even though Paula has served us well as a very active volunteer for some time now, the FOSM voted and officially installed her as a board member at our June 21st board as well as installing two additional board members: Julie Seitel and Kari Doll who have been very active the last two to three months in many capacities. Our by-laws recommend our board should number between five and nine, so FOSM is positioned well to move on many fronts this coming summer and Fall. More on this below.

Here are just some of the things that your FOSM board has been up to since the March newsletter: FOSM was extremely successful in our second-ever GiveBig campaign; conducted a clean-up day of our grounds; conducted two tours of the Mansion by visiting folks that contacted us via our webpage; and, on June 9th, Jaime (Parks and Recreation) arranged a complete tour of the Mansion and Carriage House for Eric Van Steenberg (MSU) joined by several members of the Verge Theater board and others. Also, the FOSM board finally met in person for our May board meeting at the Mansion, after over one year of virtual meeting since early 2020. What a relief!

An exciting development of these past three months is FOSM's work to focus on possible re-use proposals for the Carriage House as a first stage in future development of the mansion.

After being approached by various groups interested in renting or renovating the structure, a proposal led by Paula Power was reworked with the idea of making re-use of the Carriage House a priority in the development plan for the mansion. As the first of three phases of a possible fundraising and development plan for the mansion, this proposal centers on the hopes that the Carriage House can become a much-needed community theater/gathering place. In addition to its financial viability, FOSM remains concerned about the deterioration and upkeep of the mansion's interior, exterior and grounds. Finding a long-term tenant(s) for the Carriage House, and/or eventually the mansion, who is interested in partnering to maintain, restore, and repair the structures and grounds while developing the property for community use could be the key to unlocking the Story Mansion's future. While still in need of community input and further planning, this first stage of developing the property for community use could become a proving point and model for eventual renovation of the second and third stories of the mansion.

A proposal of ideas was discussed with the City Manager, informally and formally on June 24 to identify next steps needed by the City and the FOSM to generate movement in renovation and re-use plans for the mansion. As stated, these Carriage House discussions are very preliminary, but could be very promising for the community; for the City (in offsetting some of its costs); and, the FOSM as it seeks re-use possibilities for the Mansion in years to come. Many challenges lay ahead for this "Phrase One" re-use proposal to be realized, but it appears that these are very good first steps in moving forward.

The FOSM has decided to resume its Story Under the Stars (SUTS) outdoor film event this year after taking last year off due

to the pandemic. The FOSM is again collaborating with the Bozeman Film Society (BFS) which has graciously assumed a lead role this year in putting this event on along with FOSM's new board members, Julie and Kari. This year's film selection: "Raiders of the Lost Ark".

For other events planned and "in the works", please see our webpage and the City's Parks and Recreation webpage. For example, our Julie and Kari put together a cabaret event at the Mansion on the June 24th which was just out of this world!

Please stay tuned in the future in those areas outlined in last quarter's newsletter and don't forget that you are always welcome to contact any of our board members at any time via our webpage.