Greetings from your Board of the Friends of the Story Mansion (FOSM) via our third quarterly report for 2021! Your board members (President, Felix Spinelli; Secretary and Treasurer, Michele Soldner; Laurie Neil; Jane Klockman; Elizabeth Darrow; Lee Wagner; Paula Power; Julie Seitel; and Kari Doll) all have been busy on many fronts. We continue to be supported by Dr. Eric Van Steenberg (MSU) and Jamie Saitta (Parks and Recreation) in our progress in making events come alive at the Mansion and planning for the future.

Several FOSM board members and others were involved in a clean-up day on July 17 with special emphasis on the Mansion’s windows and exterior shrubbery. Also, Felix, Laurie, Julie, and FOSM friend and neighbor, Bill Scharnberg, during this past quarter were involved in giving several Mansion tours. These tours were arranged via our webpage and because of the Mansion hosting one of the three SLAM events held on August 7th. These tours generated over $100 in donations, but more importantly, indicated that there is much interest in the Mansion’s place in Bozeman history. In so doing, it solidifies the Mansion as a landmark of the community and connects many past SAE members and longtime Bozeman residents to the current board and their hopes for the future.

The most exciting and promising development of these past three months is the publication by the City of a Request for Proposal (RFP) related to the re-use of the Carriage House, centered on the hopes that it can become a community theater/gathering place and as discussed with the City Manager and others on June
24. The deadline for the City to receive RFPs is October 1 so the board waits patiently for word from Jamie as to what next steps might be for our board. The board gives Jaime and others who have worked on this proposal a huge thanks for moving this concept into, hopefully, reality in the months and years to come.

After last year’s cancellation, the FOSM resumed its Story Under the Stars (SUTS) outdoor film event, again collaborating with the Bozeman Film Society (BFS). FOSM board members, Julie and Kari, took a lead role in working with Lisa McGrory (BFS) in making this event another successful collaboration effort. This year’s film selection was “Raiders of the Lost Ark” with live snakes and bugs to boot and was enjoyed by all!

Due to the rise in COVID cases in Gallatin County and the resultant strain on our hospitals and health workers, Julie and Kari (with input from the FOSM) had to postpone their cabaret event at the Mansion on the September 24th. This postponement was very unfortunate as many of us who attended their June 24th event were anxiously awaiting another “just out of this world” evening.

Please stay tuned in the future for other events planned and “in the works” by looking at our webpage and the City’s Parks and Recreation webpage. Events that are in the works include our Halloween evening’s “Witch’s Night at the Mansion” and Christmas Tea in December, depending on our community’s COVID threat status. I would like to remind you that you are welcome (and encouraged) to contact any of our board members at any time via our webpage.