

FRIENDS OF THE STORY MANSION (FOSM)
Quarterly Report Fourth Qtr. 2021
December 8, 2021

This is our final quarterly report for 2021 and I am sure that you will be impressed with all the activities that have gone on since the last quarter. 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) have been busy on many fronts. We continue to be supported by Dr. Eric Van Steenberg (MSU) and Jamie Saitta (Parks and Recreation) in making events come alive at the Mansion and planning for the future.

During this past quarter, Felix and Julie continued to provide tours upon request and starting in January, will provide regularly scheduled tours from noon to two on the first Sunday of every month. A highlight of these mansion tours was the visit by fifteen 8th grade students and four teachers from the Willson Alternative School on November 10th. The students asked lots of questions such as: "Did Native Americans live here before this building was built?"; "How much did it cost?"; "Did children live here?"; etc.

In October, several FOSM board members and others were involved in two clean-up days with special emphasis on leaf raking and hedge trimming. Unfortunately, the cabaret event planned for September 24 was postponed due to the continuing COVID threat.

Two major landmark community-oriented extravaganzas occurred this quarter: the annual "Witches Night at the Mansion" and the first ever Story Mansion Winter Festival. The FOSM decided to resume its annual "Witches Night at the Mansion" after taking last year off due to the pandemic. Julie Seitel's lighting effects proved to be a crucial element as the mansion came alive with lights and the animated creatures that were placed on the lawn (many repaired and rejuvenated by Julie and Felix). Over \$180 of candy (about 55 pounds) was distributed by our trusted witches to over 300 happy children. Former FOSM board member, Jerry Coffey, and members of the Sigma Chi fraternity handled the street crossing duties with an assist from the Longfellow School, which lent us stop sign paddles and reflective vests. According to Jerry, the light effects surpassed any previous Halloween lighting display.

On December 3, many members of the FOSM board along with several volunteers sprang into action to decorate the Mansion. The following day, Julie, Paula, Felix and Felix's wife Maggie, represented the FOSM at Bozeman's Christmas Stroll making many contacts in the community and distributing flyers (made by Julie) about the holiday event. Flyers were also mailed to over 630 residents living within proximity of the mansion.

On December 5, the truly wonderful Story Mansion Winter Festival came together with dozens of cookies made by volunteers, lots of hot chocolate (with the help of Jane's daughter's hot chocolate machine), fantastic entertainment pulled together by Julie, kids' crafts and cookie decorating organized by Paula, and of course, snow and cold temperatures (after hitting record high temperatures the previous week). Groups that performed at the Festival include: the Verge Teen Theater, 406 Cirque, Last Best Comedy, Random Acts of Silliness, and several local singers and musicians.

While all this activity was occurring this quarter, the board has met and continues to work on future events and activities. We will bring you more information and updates about these activities in the coming year.

Stay tuned for even more exciting events and activities in 2022. The FOSM will continue to forward ideas and sponsor events and activities to make ***your*** Story Mansion and Carriage House a true community center and icon landmark for Bozeman citizens and visitors.

Don't forget that you are always welcome to contact any of our board members at any time via our webpage and we encourage you to volunteer. Volunteering does not mean a long-term commitment or require being on the board – you can help in many small ways or go crazy and get as involved as you wish!

Please visit our webpage at StoryMansion.org and the City's Parks and Recreation webpage at <https://www.bozeman.net/government/recreation>.