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*Fall 2019
Newsletter*



CPR MEMBERSHIP

As a member of Butte CPR, you are taking part in an important part of your community. Through education, historic improvement project grants, workshops, house tours, ordinance oversight, salvage, and advocacy, Butte CPR works to preserve and revitalize the fabric of your community.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!!!!

- If you are interested in becoming a member of CPR, check our website to find out how to become a member or email us at info@buttecpr.org.
- If you are already a member and want to renew your membership for 2020, you can send your check in care of Butte CPR and mail to PO Box 164, Butte, MT 59703.
(We will be sending a reminder to renew your membership dues in November.)

Butte CPR, P. O. Box 164, Butte, MT 59701

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Two very dedicated board members resigned this year. Bruce Cole headed up the Dust to Dazzle Tour for several years and Bill Tiskus worked alongside of Bruce in organizing Dust to Dazzle and coordinating volunteers. He also served as CPR's Treasurer. Great Falls, where they are living now, will find itself lucky to have them in the community. We will miss them. Taking their places are Nancy Woodruff and Noorjahan Parwana. We are excited they are working with us.

NANCY WOODRUFF moved to Butte with her husband, Steve Thompson, in September of 2018 after living in Whitefish for 30 years. Nancy's grandmother had an avid interest in architecture and used to say, "I'll do anything to get inside someone's house." Nancy inherited that gene and is now on Cloud Nine walking around and ogling the buildings of Butte, as well as enjoying owning an historic home in Uptown.

In past lives, Nancy studied English, art history and anthropology and worked as a newspaper reporter and as a technical writer for software companies. She lived in Hong Kong for several years as a child and later taught English in China. Nancy was active in the Whitefish community, serving one term as a City Councilor and as a member of numerous city committees. Most recently, she participated in writing the city's Climate Action Plan.



Since moving to Butte, Nancy became involved with CPR in 2018 and has been involved in the Sewell's Hardware project and volunteered for Dust to Dazzle. She also created CPR's new website with a new, fresh look. She, Steve and their border collie Tess are happily hiking, cross-country skiing and generally exploring their new hometown and the surrounding area.



NOORJAHAN PARWANA became involved in CPR years ago, including serving as CPR's PR Coordinator for a time. Her professional life began as a land steward with a state-wide land trust, followed by nearly two decades of community organizing and facilitation around watershed-scale conservation and restoration efforts in southwestern Montana. Currently she works for the State and finds learning to be an appraiser like solving sudoku. Noorjahan lives with her husband Mark uptown in a miner's cottage. Her hobby is building soil so plants will grow and provide a perch and food for the bees and the migratory birds. In Noorjahan's own words: *When my husband and I temporarily moved to Butte in 1995, while he pursued his degree at Montana Tech, I said, "Get your degree and let's get the hell out of Dodge!" It was a pretty bleak town when we moved here, but it only took a few months to be charmed by the friendliness of the people, which convinced us to put down roots in*

Butte. My interest in historic architecture was sparked a couple years later during a cross country drive. So many towns take pride in their historic districts, most of which are paltry compared to Butte's. It was then I decided to be a part of the historic preservation community in Butte. Over the years, Butte CPR taught me a lot about what to do and what not to do for a historic building (sadly, a lesson learned too late at times as our vinyl windows attest). And it has been heartening to watch and participate with the thoughtful and dedicated folks in the community who are advocating for, educating about, and celebrating Butte's historic architecture.

CPR Board of Directors

Larry Smith, President

Mitzi Rossillon, Treasurer

Robert Renouard

Jason Silvernale

Douglas Shidler

Nancy Woodruff

Noorjahan Parwana

Administrative Coordinator: Lee Whitney

DANGEROUS BUILDING ORDINANCE

We spent a good deal of time from May through August advocating for changes to the Dangerous Building Ordinance proposed by the Butte-Silver Bow Community Enrichment (CED) Department. We want to make sure our members understand many of the issues that concerned us.

1. The ordinance cited the International Building Code. However, a more appropriate standard is the International Existing Building Code. This was changed in the ordinance.
2. Even though the above change was made, at one point the text still referred to buildings being required to adhere to new construction standards. Those references were subsequently deleted.
3. We suggested that rather than making owners appeal to Montana State District Court, which is quite costly and generally requires hiring an attorney, they be allowed to appeal to a board of appeals. The ordinance was changed so that people can appeal to the existing Building Board of Appeals.
4. We also suggested that people have up to 30 days within which to file an appeal with the Building Board of Appeals rather than 10. That change was made.
5. Rather than allowing any employee of Butte-Silver Bow to act as enforcement officer, we suggested that only someone with appropriate qualifications be allowed to enforce the ordinance. This change was made.

We still are concerned about certain elements and inconsistencies in the ordinance, and we will continue to monitor adherence to the changes that were made based on the input of the Historic Preservation Officer, the Historic Preservation Commission, Butte CPR, and several individuals from throughout the community.

Butte CPR is and has always been an advocate for our community. The fact that we advocate for constructive methods of dealing with neglected properties and encourage adaptive reuse does not mean, in any way, shape or form, that we do not worry about the safety of our residents and neighbors and that we do not care about the aesthetics of our city. We care deeply. We also do not want to see a County ordinance that potentially could be a fast track to demolition.

If you are interested in reviewing the ordinance as it was passed by the BSB Council of Commissioners, it is available as an attachment to the Council agenda of the August 21, 2019 or you can contact CPR at info@buttecpr.org.

1004 IOWA STREET – A CUTE LITTLE “TINY HOUSE”

The house at 1004 Iowa is a prime example of a property that, although a candidate for revitalization, was close to being demolished a few months ago. The Historic Preservation Commission stepped in and saved the structure, hopefully to see it picked up by an eager investor. This tiny house is definitely in need of exterior cleaning, painting and brick work. And the interior, cleaned out and mothballed by a group of volunteers, provides a blank canvas for a developer with imagination and skills. The 533 square foot house (a tiny house) will be up for public auction at a tax sale on October 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at the BSB Courthouse. If it isn't sold, it will go back to the land sale committee to determine if it is eligible for a developer's packet.



RECAP OF THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS

The year isn't over yet and we won't offer details on all of our projects, but we want to recap some of our activities so you know we aren't sleeping. We will provide more information on the year's activities in our annual report that will be published during the first quarter of 2020.

- **Dust to Dazzle** – Another successful Dust to Dazzle Tour was held on June 29. We showcased six properties, held a successful auction in the O'Rourke building, and hosted a well-attended tea. Over 60 wonderful volunteers ensured the tour's success. THANK YOU!
- **Salvage Sales** – We held five salvage sales and took in a good deal of "new" items. We were able to salvage wood flooring from the Greeley School and from a property on South Idaho Street that is being razed for the Town Pump expansion. We will hold another sale in October, weather permitting, so keep an eye open for the date.
- **Historic Improvement Projects** – Eleven projects were funded this year, including exterior painting, masonry work, porch reconstruction, iron fence fabrication, restoration of original windows, column restoration, and repair of retaining wall and steps. We also were able to contribute \$5,000 to the Serbian Church for roof repairs.
- **Sewell's Hardware Prismatic Glass Project** – In conjunction with the Mary McCormick, BSB's Historic Preservation Officer, who received a MT History Foundation grant, CPR solicited and organized a group of 14 volunteers to help restore a prismatic stained-glass sign on the Sewell's Hardware building on East Park Street. As of this date, the project is nearing completion. Check out our website and Facebook page for photos.
- **Brick Workshop** – Larry Smith, CPR board president, is holding a brick workshop at the end of September to teach the fundamentals of brick work, focusing particular attention on the soft brick used in most Butte buildings.
- **Dangerous Building Ordinance** – CPR was quite vocal in its opposition to the Dangerous Building Ordinance proposed by BSB's Community Enrichment Department. See the detailed article herein.
- **Meeting Attendance/Committee Service** – Representatives of Butte CPR attended numerous public meetings throughout the year to keep track of what is going on in the community, such as Council of Commissioners, Judiciary Committee, Historic Preservation Commission, and Urban Revitalization Administration.

IN MEMORIAM – MIKE "MAZZ" MAZZOLINI

Mike Mazzolini, a personal friend and a long-time historic preservation advocate, passed away on March 30, 2019. We gratefully acknowledge his family and friends for requesting donations be made to Butte CPR. We were fortunate to receive over \$1,000 in donations in Mike's memory. We would, however, be much more pleased to still have him in our lives.

Mike and I were the only two Butte natives who became members of Butte CPR when it was established in 1992. This was after protesting the demolition of the Montana Theater which occurred in 1988-in the freezing cold as I recall. He was tireless in his enthusiasm for Uptown Butte and the numerous and many buildings we worked to save. I ate many meals at Metals Banque when Mike owned it. If he saw us on the street heading in his direction, he had our favorite table set up with our drinks poured. He was a good guy whose passion was evident when he talked about our community. He will be sorely missed by many people. *Lee Whitney*

