

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Montana History Foundation Grant request from Yellowstone Gateway Museum

The Livingston Parks & Trails Committee fully supports the application of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum to archivally preserve Warren McGee's railroad and Montana history research materials. We believe that having access to Mr. McGee's vast collection of photos, correspondence, clippings and other resources is important to our committee and our community.

The Parks & Trails Committee is a permanent advisory board to the Livingston City Commission, tasked with assisting the Commission with its long-term planning, preservation and promotion of parks and trails in Livingston. We have an ongoing interest in understanding and documenting the history of our public parks, trails and recreational areas as we make recommendations for the long-term future of our community, including the protection of its historic corridors and open spaces.

One of our current projects, for example, is to develop a process for naming new parks and trails and we are starting with a history of existing recreational areas. We have approached the Museum for information and have seen some documents compiled by Mr. McGee regarding Miles and Sacajawea parks, Mayors Landing Fishing Access Area, the M Street Park and the civic center.

Mr. McGee was very active for several decades in the establishment, preservation and beautification of these and other local parks, trails, pedestrian bridges, historic sites and recreational facilities. He maintained personal photos, newspaper clippings, receipts, correspondence and many other documents associated with these developments which help inform decisions about future use. We know that having more immediate access to his accounts would certainly enrich our community's understanding of the history and importance of these areas and previous community endeavors. It could be instrumental in sparking others in the community to share their histories as well.

We encourage your support for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum's application for funding for this important project.

Thank you.

Jeanne-Marie Souvigny
Chair, Livingston Parks & Trails Committee