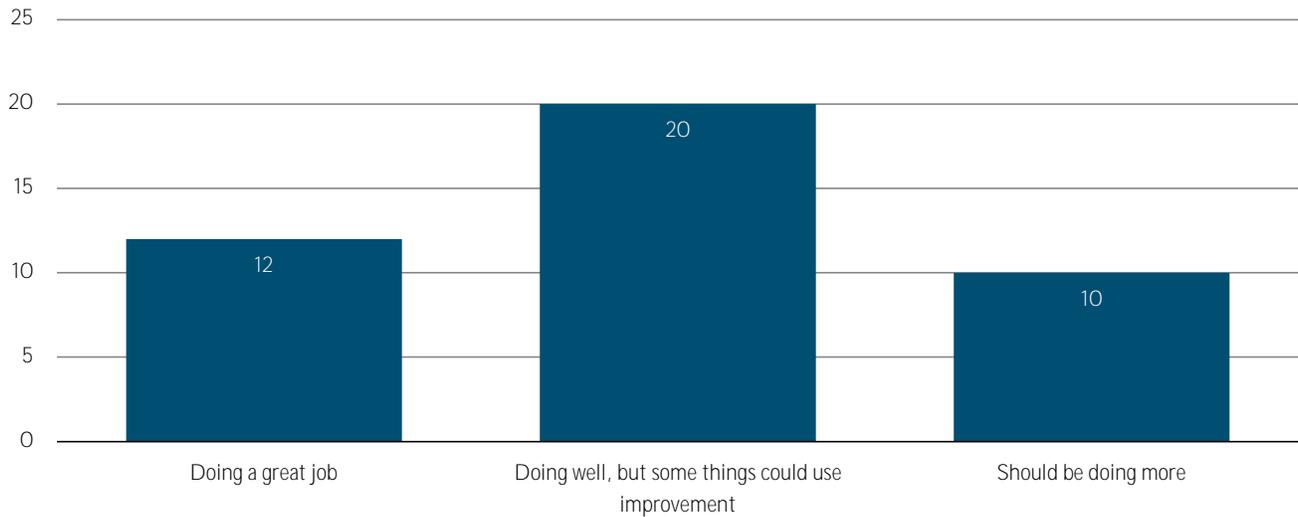


Question of the Week 1: Aug 8 - 15

How is the City doing in its efforts to preserve the community's historic resources?



Comments

The City needs to provide a more robust grant/loan program for upgrade of historic properties that need some maintenance efforts. Some owners of historic properties may lack the resources needed to keep them in good shape.

There needs to be additional attention paid to surveying all of the districts, National Register and Local subdistricts as well. We need to figure out the "opted out" situation of certain properties. We need to inventory all our historic properties and submit additional properties for individual landmark listings. We are not doing a good job of documenting our inventory and it is being lost. The historic bridges are being lost and there has never been any attention related to maintenance and documentation. Threats exist to many public historic buildings because of demolition by neglect. There are no property maintenance codes and no real enforcement so the guidelines are weakened. We need to be

Sometimes the adherence to historical visuals creates an undue burden on owners. For example retaining a few square feet of stone in an off the path property can be very costly when other aspects suggest different solutions.

Thanks for thinking about history and attempting to preserve it. It is important for generations to come. What about the demolition of Brook Street Bridge, couldn't we have done something about that rather than destroying it?

Focus more on insuring bridges are safe, repaired; more \$ and PS responses, daily, to parks and their clean up; follow up on Hiawatha Gardens Task Force...what's next?

It was a huge disappointment to hear that the city has opted to tear down all of Hiawatha Gardens. This seems very foolish to me. We will never be able to get it back once we've destroyed it.

I think historic preservation is always part of the conversation but some of our most valuable resources are not being addressed such as the historic, public stairs that connect our neighborhoods which are slowly being privatized. The MAC which is a huge resource and requires financial support and the 50's motor court signs need to be designated as an historic asset. All the old homes on the avenue are a visual asset and I think the City needs to create ways for homeowners on the Ave to be able to do exterior maintenance and infrastructure improvements

Why aren't we doing things to PROMOTE our dedication to Historical Preservation? Instead the only time we run into it is if one wants to redo their historical property...zoning. I see an absence of our Chamber in that promotion that could be a partnership. I am all about people visiting MS because of things like Historical Preservation, safe to visit, family enjoyment, shopping variety, fab food...not just MJ. :)

How is the City doing in its efforts to preserve the community's historic resources?

Historic bridges have suffered due to prolonged deferred maintenance. Since the cost of regular maintenance of these bridges is substantial and likely more than the City's budget can absorb on its own, the City should look to create some sort of steady outside funding mechanism, perhaps through the State Historic Fund or perhaps there are federal dollars available somewhere for the preservation of historic assets such as these. Perhaps a one-time rehabilitation grant using state Energy Impact Funds might also be a viable solution.

The City needs to take a more active role in helping private owners preserve their property. We have a lot of historic resources that are suffering from lack of maintenance and improvement and the City needs to develop a loan or grant program to assist with this.

The City also needs to do better with its own historic properties. The Council recently approved destruction of an historic bridge and now has indicated it wants to remove another historic property under its stewardship. Is that the example it should be setting?

C H Rockey needs a Grant to save / restore his building.

The Post Office and Library are "in danger" due to the Ivy eating away at the mortar.

The large boulder in Cheyenne Spring Park denoting "Ute Pass" is no longer legible - needs restoration.

The Town Clock statute needs paint, etc

These suggestions are just a start . . . . .

Historic walls and bridges need a lot of attention. We are doing nothing to try to get more green stone to fix them. Are we doing anything to create future historic resources? If not, we should be.

the revamping of the downtown block a few years back was done to look more like modern Breckenridge than historic Manitou. sun water was also a great opportunity for the City to work with a local business to highlight the historic past of Manitou (in particular the health and wellness history with the springs)

The Brook street bridge debacle. There seems to be some issues with bids so far and maybe not including a bid for the proposed work that the Concrete Couch could be involved in. Also, the Soda Springs Park Pavillion . . . I don't believe the majority of residents want to see this "chained" off. I'm guessing the cost to put "attractive" gates on that structure could equal a patrolman's salary for a year. On the other hand, my wife reports a pleasant interaction with Manitou Springs Police who were walking a beat on the avenue recently. I believe that what we need are policemen who will interact with community members in a pleasant manner and help to build community.

Some things seem a bit shoddy. Know it must be hard what with dealing with panhandlers and "takers". Feel have to get tougher on that issue.

The 'Historic' signs on top of the Mountain man are still there. They need to come down. They are more than 50 years old but that doesn't make them a valuable historic resource. To the contrary, they denote blight. Sometimes scared cows need to be gored.

This is a street thing, but the crosswalk markings really look bad.

Maybe we should install cobblestones on Manitou Avenue, again a street thing, but people do comment on how bad the Avenue is. Detracts from the historic district.

I think Manitou does a great job of historic preservation. Recently, it seems some folks want to use the cover of historic preservation to achieve other goals -- speaking specifically of Brook Street Bridge repair/replacement. Historical it may be, but this bridge has never exactly been a treasure. It pales in comparison to the beautiful greenstone of other historic bridges in town, for example. Which is why I think it's more important to replace (or repair if that's really feasible, but apparently is not) the bridge post-haste rather than getting bogged down in a long historic preservation discussion. I trust the City to give the new (or repaired) bridge appropriate historical character.

Save Brook St Bridge and use the experience as a classroom experience to develop local trades for more work needing to be done in years to come.

How is the City doing in its efforts to preserve the community's historic resources?

The library is a historic icon in the City of Manitou Springs and in desperate need of ADA accessibility. Too many of our citizens can not use the building because of this barrier and it is not fair to them. The building needs to be remodeled and expanded to make it ADA accessible. There must be grants available for this purpose. This is a project that is way overdue. As a library user, the library also needs better restrooms. There is only one restroom for everyone and it is small and cramped. City Hall was revamped to make its restrooms nice, and the city should do something about it.

I would love to see more attention paid to the greenstone and stairways throughout the town. Also, to pay attention to non-Victorian architecture of value.

stop permitting businesses to enlarge their buildings when the buildings are adjacent to historic residential neighborhood and can be seen from historic neighborhoods. Make decisions to improve traffic flow in the community's historic neighborhoods. This includes ending parking on Canon Ave so the road can be 2-way street.

When,  
Some of our historic buildings are not only old {that's what they are supposed to be} but the property owners seem to forget that old does not mean shabby and run down. Dirty windows, peeling paint, and sad looking are the result of poor or no upkeep. Old buildings actually take more tender, loving care because of their age which is true of the older the body the more frail it becomes without medical care and healthy habits.

Code enforcement is and has always been the biggest problem. Code for keeping properties safe and code for catching changes to buildings in the historic district -- windows are a chronic issue.

A lot of our buildings need renovation at costs beyond what owners can afford and work that is often impeded by problems with our infrastructure (e.g. Electricity)

I would like to see more opportunities for grants for homeowners to spruce up the outside of their homes.

Doing a good job, but not enough money for historic infrastructure.... Also, some aspects, like sustainability over the long term should be conifer as an equal to preservation ... We are history NOW as well as before. Preservation above all things is not fair or even desirable.

I would like to see more focus on the Native American influences of the waters in our town.

We are lucky to have a pro-active, experienced Historic Preservation Commission supported by a very capable planning staff, who realize the value to tourism and property values of preserving and protecting the City's unique historic resources. If one thing could be improved it would be the full support and realization of the expertise by City Council of the uniquely valuable city planning staff to the protection of what is our city's best resource.

The authority of the Historic Preservation Commission is overwhelming and should be drastically reduced. They are way worse than an HOA and their requirements are costly to the residents.

Decision to destroy historic bridge is a major concern. This was handled poorly and without transparency. Multiple bids should have been sought, a condition report/analysis should have been shared, and the HPC should have been involved.

The city council listened to a wide spread community desire to save the bridge off Ruxton. It postponed tearing the bridge down to give time to look at options for saving the bridge on a budget.

Lets find a way to save the bridge.