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Media Release

Billings Couple's Pledge of \$25,000 for Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site to be Acted on by City Council Monday

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, January 21st, 2016: Billings City Council members will discuss a \$25,000 Campaign Pledge agreement. The agreement contemplates that the City of Billings would provide funds up to the amount of the contribution to the Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site project, with reimbursement over time from Jim and Lin Roscoe via the Capital Campaign of the Billings Parks, Recreation and Preservation Foundation. The agreement, which was signed by the Foundation's Treasurer John Fekety in December, is waiting on council approval and Mayor Hanel's signature before going into effect.

Jim and Lin Roscoe said their decision to contribute to the project stemmed from an interest in local history. The Roscoes have supported many historical preservation efforts in and around Billings including the Pompey's Pillar Restoration, the Yellowstone County Museum at Logan Airport, and the Western Heritage Center. Along with their interest in local history, Yellowstone Kelly's grave site view evokes a special feeling for those who visited. "It takes you immediately back in time and provokes thoughtfulness and nostalgia about those who were here before western expansion, those who later came west, and how we all got here," Jim said.

Renovating the site is also about honoring a commitment that has gone unfulfilled over the years. The YKIS Steering Committee, City of Billings, Yellowstone County, and Chamber of Commerce mean to carry out that promise made almost a century ago. In the generations from Luther S. Kelly's death and burial to the present, Billings and Yellowstone County have not followed through on their promises to care for the gravesite of an important man whose story typifies the American West frontier and who is tremendously unique and important to our local history.

The YKIS Steering Committee aims to secure the remaining funding within the next year and break ground in early 2017. Billings businesses are urged to contact Chris Dimock at (406) 294-2403 to discuss their donation or visit the Yellowstone Kelly website to learn more or donate to the project at yellowstonekelly.org.

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