

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

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Minutes GFHPC Meeting City Hall A101 February 11, 2020

Commissioners present: Chuck Flemmer, Jessa Novak, Gordon Iseminger, Doug Munski, Sandy Slater, Judy Swisher, Brian Carlson, Nicole Derenne, Cory Lien

Commissioners absent: Bill Caraher

Call to order: Chuck Flemmer called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of January 14, 2020 (moved Munski, seconded Derenne)

2. RRVCA - Section 106 Review

1805 2nd Ave N. – change out the wood front door to a steel door with two small panes of glass at the top, and change the back door from existing to a steel door with two small panes of glass at the top.

Motion – No Historic Properties Affected NHPA (Moved Slater, seconded Swisher).

Motion carries

3. FY2020 Grant Application

One change to the application from the projects discussed at the last meeting was to remove the request for the Trolley monument. The reason for this is that when calculating the additional costs to each of the projects (Commissioner hours et c), the final budget was quite high. It is thought that the Commission could perhaps seek funding from alternative sources for that project. The final budget is still higher than in recent years however that is largely due to the inclusion of the request for CLG Conference funds. The Coordinator met with the Community Foundation which could potentially assist with managing a fund as our fiscal agent if we wish to go in that direction for a special project such as the Trolley monument. There is a fee involved, but they manage the fund and donor receipts.

Commissioners further discussed Pest House/City Detention Hospital project. Commissioner Iseminger had a discussion with one of the City Engineers who explained that the rail bridge is in need of work and that may be either immediate repair, or involve a larger project that would include the widening of the road to improve pedestrian access and accessibility for mobility impaired. In order to make those improvements, land would need to be purchased from either the east side or the west side of Washington however larger engineering issues will ultimately determine whether the east or west side will be potentially impacted. The timeframe is approximately 2023. Commissioner Caraher had noted that since the NDDOT is involved, there may be a chance that we could ask for mitigation. However we are not clear as to what money may be used on the future project. It may be more prudent to secure funding for a report should that potential opportunity not exist when the time comes. Commissioner Iseminger queried whether doing this project as a NR nomination might help to draw more attention to the building. One of the challenges is finding historical information about the building. Commissioner Flemmer mentioned that it appears as though the building has undergone some changes and doing a HABS report will still allow us to do the documentation which also includes an historic context.

Motion to approve the FY20 grant application and budget as presented (Moved Iseminger, seconded Slater).

Motion carries.

4. GSA request for concurrence – Determination of Eligibility for the National Register: Federal building at 124 N. 6th Street. – recommended Not Eligible.

Motion to concur with the determination (Moved Swisher, seconded Derenne)

Motion Carries

5. Chair Report – Chuck Flemmer

- a. DDRB is meeting February 12 where they will be looking at new regulations and signs as well as looking at renovation plans for the new Steakhouse.
- b. Commissioner Flemmer attended the open house for the new Selkirk apartments.
- c. Commissioner Slater asked if there is an update on the design for the new light posts and this is on the agenda for next week.

6. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

- a. Community Foundation can act on our behalf as a fiscal agent should we wish to pursue this kind of avenue for raising special project funds.

- b. Grand Forks Herald Building move – the Coordinator shared a sketch plan (slightly older version) and explained where GFHPC is likely to have its office in the new space.
- c. HABS Report – Montgomery Hall – GFHPC was gifted a copy of Steve Martens' HABS report should any commissioners wish to see it.

7. Other Business

Commissioner Novak announced the next Entertaining History is February 16th at 2pm.

Motion to adjourn. Moved Swisher, Second Derenne. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Next meeting: March 10, 2020