

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission
255 North Fourth Street
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Minutes
GFHPC Meeting (Zoom and in person)
October 13, 2020

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

Call to order: Chuck Flemmer called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes** from September 8, 2020 meeting.

- Moved Munski, second Derenne. Motion carries.

2. **Section 106 Reviews**

- **RRVCA**

i. 304 N. 51st Street – not in historic district

Change existing front door to a steel door with two small glass panes.

Motion: No historic properties affected: Moved Derenne, second Novak.

Motion carries.

ii. 2111 10th Ave N. – not in historic district

Internal changes only. Nothing exterior. Motion: No historic properties

affected: Moved Munski, second Carlson. Motion carries.

iii. 1603 1st Ave N. – not in historic district

Change two existing doors to steel doors with two small glass panes.

Motion: No historic properties affected: Moved Slater, second Munski.

Motion carries.

iv. 1209 6th Ave N. – not in historic district

Install grey stucco foundation panels on all exposed foundation where possible. Motion: No historic properties affected: Moved Iseminger, second B.Caraher. Motion carries.

3. Draft RFP for Roosevelt School nomination

- i. The coordinator has reached out to the owners of Roosevelt Apartments to discuss our desire to nominate the building. We plan to circulate the RFP for bids once we have had that conversation. This company also owns both the Freighthouse Apartments and the Depot on Demers. Motion to open RFP to bids. Moved Iseminger, second by Derenne. Motion carries.

4. Draft program for the CLG Conference

- i. The coordinator has drafted a program with several options for sessions. There were tips and practices learned from joining the Preserve Minnesota conference which has helped to guide this format. The coordinator is also creating a logistics plan to enable the technology for registration, delivery and notifications to registrants.
- ii. Dates to be confirmed March 8 - 12 or March 29 - April 2
- iii. Session options to be confirmed so we can begin reaching out to speakers and other CLGs
- iv. ACHP – cultural landscape surveys.
- v. Denver – mid-century grassroots effort for preservation
- vi. Rethos – how to structure a grassroots effort
 1. How do we open up stories to more diverse stories – making it more meaningful
 2. Commissioner Novak mentioned an esoteric approach to ghost towns: rise and fall of small towns
 3. The coordinator will send the Commission a link to the Rethos website for more information and the work they have done.

4. Commissioner Derenne mentioned it is a good idea to break apart to a session each day. Perhaps consider doing break out rooms with guided questions.

5. Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer

- **Downtown Design and Review Board**
 - The DDRB met on September 24 to approve new painted sign on top of the Mill Square building with a new name.
 - They also approved improvements to 311 Kittson for a rooftop patio.
 - September 23 – there were 3 public input zoom meetings to discuss design standards. There were not a lot of participants. One area of discussion was the demolition of a building only once there is a plan for what will go in its place. Standards are being pushed back now while the lawyers consider the proposals.
- Granitoid – Chuck and Susan met with Dept of Engineering on September 10 and 24 to discuss plans to resurface the roads around the old Water Treatment Plant in anticipation of the redevelopment. We met as a group on Woodland Avenue to look at the condition of the existing granitoid and consider a plan for future preservation and discuss what kind of restoration, if any, is possible. It is not easy to “restore” granitoid. Engineering is considering different options that will hopefully minimize further damage such as no longer using asphalt to fill holes. We are continuing the research to plan a final resolution. Commissioner Swisher asked what is still on the National Register. Chuck talked with MPO regarding future plans for Minnesota and while there is no current plan to do so, it cannot be completely ruled out if alternatives are not accepted that the road could be changed in some way.
- County Courthouse renovation – Icon Architects has provided a rendering of the proposed solution for the State Attorney’s office to extend their office space into the current void/corridor. The proposal demonstrates sensitivity to preserving a visual of the original architectural layout.
- Chuck reported that former Coordinator, Jeff Wencl has returned from duty. He received the Inherent Resolve Mission Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

6. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

- **CLG Program Review** – report has been shared with Commissioners. The only item for action for GFHPC is the filling of the last seat on the Commission which has been vacant since the departure of Commissioner Triplett.
- **Q4 Drawdown**
 - i. This will finish out the FY2019 grant with approximately \$1000 left over. We are hoping that, due to the impact of COVID-19 and the related closures that we will be permitted to carry over those funds for plaque installation and Special Collections scanning.
 - ii. GFHPC is still seeking a contractor to help install the bronze plaques for the lost buildings. If any commissioners can recommend someone, please advise the Coordinator.
- **Thurber plaque and memorial event:** the Coordinator added a few photos from the memorial service to the Dropbox for the interest of those who were unable to attend. The event was well attended and well received. Excess donated funds were pledged to a scholarship fund through the Community Foundation and it has now received enough funds to create an ongoing endowment. It will be used as a scholarship for local high school students.
- **NR plaques estimate from Border States Trophy for future consideration**
 - i. The coordinator reached out to get an estimate for bronze building plaques in the event that we wish to purchase them for any of the registered properties should funds be available. The estimate was \$475 for a 9” x 12”.

7. Other business

- County Courthouse rendering for alteration
- The Coordinator also added scans of the blueprints for the City Detention Hospital for interest.

Call to adjourn – Moved Munski, second Derenne. Meeting adjourned at 7: 33pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30pm by Zoom or in person.