

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission  
255 North Fourth Street  
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**Minutes**  
**GFHPC Meeting (Zoom and in person)**  
**January 19, 2021**

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

**Commissioners absent:** Sandy Slater gave apologies

**Call to order:** Chuck Flemmer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes** from December 8, 2020 meeting.
  - a. Moved Swisher, second Munski. Motion carries.
2. **Section 106 Reviews:**
  - a. RRVCA
    - i. 1726 11<sup>th</sup> Ave N– Not in a historic district - no exterior work  
Motion: No historic properties affected. Moved Derenne, second Swisher. Motion carries.
3. **Potential FY21 Projects**
  - i. NDSHPO grant application is due Friday, February 12. The coordinator connected with the grants and contracts officer to gauge viability of projects discussed at the last meeting. It was determined that one of those projects would be unlikely to be funded due to the criteria.
  - ii. Commissioners discussed at length the projects that had been shortlisted and drafted. While it is agreed that the Chester Fritz Auditorium is an important building and worthy of a nomination, it was thought that perhaps the University might be willing to fund that nomination and others on the campus. If they are not interested in doing so, then we could seek the funding elsewhere to do that. The idea of a book series was discussed and while it was agreed that the project is a good one, it would be a good idea to further flesh out the scope and reach out to some authors first to get a realistic sense for a stipend/fee. Caraher suggested putting together a

subcommittee to move that forward. Perhaps a target of October to allow for a deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> for the Myra Foundation grant is a good goal. Subcommittee to include Commissioners Caraher, Lien and Derenne with the coordinator. Some possible authors recommended include Mike Jacobs, Chuck Haga, Marsha Gunderson, Peg O’Leary and some of the UND History faculty. Commissioners agreed that working on outreach should be a focus in the coming year.

- iii. **Motion:** Pursue three projects for the grant application that includes the National Register nomination of the old DeRoche Apartment building (now Hampton Apartments), the Integrity Survey of the 1950s floodwall and adding the mid-century homes in the Baukol Addition of the Riverside Historic District. Moved Caraher, second Munski. Motion carries.

#### 4. Chair Report

- a. Nothing to report since the December meeting

#### 5. Coordinator Report

- a. Roosevelt Elementary School contract
  - i. Agatha has signed the contract and provided her insurance. The coordinator has been in communication with Bill Schoen who did the work on the renovation and Jim Kobetsky who owns the building.
- b. Conference update on schedule (March 29 – April 2)
  - i. GFHPC did not get a response from Rethos regarding a session on intangible communities. However, SHPO had offered us a session on How to Write a NR Nomination and this will allow us to offer Lorna’s presentation in its own session. A copy of the schedule is in the packet though changes are still possible.
- c. Sertoma Club (February 23)
  - i. GFHPC has been invited to give a talk for the Sertoma Club on any topic we like. While they meet monthly, this presentation will be given remotely.
- d. Water Treatment Plant (proposal for documentation)

- i. The coordinator spoke with the City Administrator regarding the future of the old Water Treatment Plant. We will need to provide the City with a proposal for documenting the building in the event that it is razed. He is very supportive of this project and providing a robust documentation.
- e. Developing proposal for incentives for historic property owners
  - i. The coordinator spoke with the City Administrator recently to ascertain what, if any, incentives are offered to owners of historic properties. At this time, the Growth fund is being used for the St Johns Block project and we will monitor this as a model for other projects. I also plan to draft a set of additional incentives based on what other communities have implemented.
- f. Temporary move of office during construction
  - i. HPC will be squatting at the Grand Forks Herald building temporarily before moving back to City Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This move will be 3-4 months.
- g. Granitoid project request for Kannowski Park installation – approved by Greenway Technical Committee
- h. Donated labor forms for Q1 drawdown
  - i. Drafts are included in the packet for everyone’s review. If there are any updates needed please let me know. A confirmation of hours is acceptable by email.
- i. SITS # for mid-century homes
  - i. Architectural survey forms for twelve homes have now received their SITS numbers.
- j. Other building news:
  - i. The Kegs is undergoing renovation, and possible extensive remodeling. The coordinator reached out to one of the owners to offer assistance and a reminder that there may be some assistance through federal tax incentives.
  - ii. The GFPS Facilities Taskforce issued a report recently that identified the closure of several schools, some of which are on the National Register. There is no final decision at this time.

6. Other business

- a. No other business this month.

7. Motion to adjourn at 7:30pm. Moved Munski, second Derenne