

Draft Minutes
GFHPC Meeting (Zoom and in person)
April 13, 2021

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

Commissioner apologies: Sandy Slater

Call to order: Chuck Flemmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes** from March 9, 2021 meeting.
 - a. Moved Munski, second Derenne. Motion carries.
2. **Section 106 Reviews:**
 - a. RRVCA
 - i. 2215 8th Ave N. – No Historic Properties Affected. Moved Derenne, second Novak, motion carries
 - b. City of GF Planning & Zoning – 2350 S. 36th Street, NHPA – Moved Caraher, second Swisher, motion carries
3. **Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer**
 - a. Kennedy Bridge – There was a March 18 conference call with NDSHPO, MNDOT, MNSHPO and GFHPC. There were suggestions that there should be a subset of scheduling for lighting schemes on the Kennedy Bridge. The Section 106 Review has been completed, but there is a clause that if the committee so wills it, it could be changed. It technically should not be opened up again unless there is a change in committee et c. MN does not like the idea of colored light schemes on bridges.
 - b. Mobile App – The walking tours were taken from the brochures and we have been trying to have the developers implement phase 2 to overlay the Sanborn maps onto the app. Chuck and Susan met with Scott Telle (AdMonkeys) and Joe Greenwood on the March 11th and March 25th. It was not quite ready by the time we delivered our conference report however the result turned out well. There are 4 different Sanborn maps – can dive into the maps pretty well. We'd like feedback from Commissioners – how well does it work and are there any problems.

- i. Commissioner Derenne asked if there are plans for other parts of historic Grand Forks to be added in the future? Commissioner Flemmer noted that we can use this as a pilot project to see how and if people use the app and then add things that will be beneficial. The next step will be marketing.

4. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

a. 2021 CLG Conference wrap

- i. Approximately 30 people attended each session.
- ii. The recordings are now online via our website.
- iii. Commissioner Flemmer expressed thanks and noted they were all interesting sessions.

- b. **St Michael’s School windows:** St Michael’s received a grant from the Englestad Foundation to redo the school windows. They are planning to give them a restored look with removing the plywood backing. The windows will be more energy efficient and maintenance friendly. A&L Siding is doing the work which will get underway this summer. They provided a rendering of the window style which we approved. They will also be wrapped in a maintenance-friendly aluminum to match.

- c. **Mural Ordinance:** The updated mural ordinance went to the Planning and Zoning Commission last week and the draft was approved to move forward. The ordinance allows for murals to be painted on historic buildings, and for the possible restoration of ghost signs. Ghost signs fall under the mural section, but there is a clause that notes those requests may need to go the HPC for an opportunity to comment. The HPC should respond to the current draft before it is finalized.

- i. To be an ordinance P&Z and Council has to approve it twice. We have until Friday to make a formal response to P&Z for the meeting.
- ii. One change proposed by the Commission is to request that the ghost sign proposals must be to be brought to the GFHPC.
- iii. Surfaces where they can be painted. They were told they could be put a sealant on the surface to protect.

- iv. The Commission asked whether under the current wording if someone take a ghost sign and put their own design on it and that appears to be the case. It was suggested that we go back to the original intent of the changes however it could we be perceived by coming on too strong then we might not get an opportunity in the future to comment and would be bypassed in the process. Ghost signs are a concern if they are not treated correctly.
 - v. The coordinator will provide the draft ordinance to the Commission for quick feedback so we can respond before the Council meeting.
 - vi. The Commission asked whether we can provide input on not just ghost signs but also any murals. It was agreed that would like to seek the authority for the GFHPC to make the decisions on ghost signs.
 - vii. The draft ordinance does not mention the DDRB in any capacity. The ordinance requires a permit from Inspections but there no review of content.
- d. **Budget request:** City departments are entering their budget requests for next fiscal year. The timeline for preparation, revision and review, and then the work sessions go through to early September.
 - e. **Q2 Drawdown:** Commissioners are asked to review their donated labor forms and either approve or send corrections by Monday, April 19th. If Commissioners attended any of the conference sessions, these should be considered part of donated labor.

5. Other business:

a. Pipe organ – Empire Arts

- i. The Empire Arts Center recently took ownership of a pipe organ that is purported to be the original organ from the building. It is in poor condition and it is not certain whether it can be successfully restored. Debra Pflughoeft-Hassett contacted us looking for any information we might have about an organ in the building. Several resources were recommended for some research including old GFH articles, contractor listings, Special Collections etc. It was also suggested that they connect with a faculty member in the UND music department who might be better able to

provide an analysis of its condition and provide suggestions of who might be able to restore it if they are able to raise the money.

b. Historic Preservation Awards

The Commission reviewed a list of the awards that the HPC has given in past years and asked to think about any suitable nominees. This is both good for preservation appreciation and public outreach. Several names were suggested and will be kept on file in the GFHPC office. Commissioner Derenne asked if the coordinator can provide a list of who has received them in the past.

6. Move to adjourn at 7: 37pm – Moved Munski, Second Swisher. Motion carries