

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission
255 North 4th Street
P.O. Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206

Minutes
GFHPC Meeting (Zoom and in person)
May 11, 2021

Commissioners present: Chuck Flemmer, Brian Carlson, Gordon Iseminger, Judy Swisher, Sandy Slater, Nicole Derenne, Bill Caraher, Doug Munski.

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

1. **Approval of Minutes** from April 13, 2021 meeting.
 - a. Moved Iseminger, second Swisher. Motion carries.
2. **Section 106 Reviews:**
 - a. **RRVCA**
 - i. 727 N. 5th Street – change both the front and back wooden doors to steel doors with 2 small panes of glass at the top. Not in an historic district. Moved Munski, second Swisher. Motion carries.
 - ii. 1620 N. 6th Street – change a kitchen, bathroom and 2 living room windows from existing wood to vinyl window. Also change existing wood front door to steel door with 2 small pane of glass at the top. Not in an historic district. Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.
 - b. **Grand Forks Parks District** – Montgomery Field at the Apollo Sports Complex (17th & Columbia) – replace the current turf with in-field synthetic turf. Moved Slater, second Swisher. Motion carries.
3. **Roosevelt School nomination**
 - a. The nomination is on hold indefinitely. One of the owners has asked that we do not proceed but has not elaborated. Prairie Centre Architecture has completed the first draft of the nomination and submitted that for our review and edit. After discussion with both the State and the consultant we propose that we proceed with the review and edits and then place the nomination aside for a possible future submission. If that were to happen, photographs would need to be taken for the nomination packet. It would be preferable to circulate the draft for review with an

end of May deadline for any edits. The coordinator will compile the edits and send back for updates however there will not be a firm deadline on phase 3 under the circumstances.

4. HPC Awards

- a. The coordinator circulated a compiled list of awards from past years. Since May is National Preservation Month this is a good time to be thinking about the awards.
 - i. Several names were mentioned regarding the Griggs Award. A question was asked as to whether the award has been given posthumously was raised and it was determined to have been given in the 1980s. In light of this, Lonnie Laffen was suggested as the 2021 recipient. Motion: Award this year's Griggs Award to Lonnie Laffen for exceptional personal effort to preserve built and cultural history. Moved Iseminger, second Swisher. Motion carries.
 - ii. There was discussion regarding the recognition of other possible Certificates of Appreciation. Discussion of recognizing UND demonstrated varying opinions including their sensitive restoration of two buildings as well as the demolition of other historic buildings. The motion to award UND for their renovations was subsequently split: Motion: To recognize UND for their historic renovation of Carnegie Library. Moved Swisher, second Munski. Ayes – 5, Nays – 1, Abstention – 1. Motion carries.
 - iii. A second recognition was moved for UND and including Dr Kathleen and Hal Gershman for their vision and support, for their renovation of Oxford house with plaques to be displayed in each of those buildings. Moved by Swisher, second Munski. Aye 5, nay 1 motion carries.
 - iv. The coordinator will work on certificates and plaques for presentation by the Mayor.

5. Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer

- a. DDRB meeting on April 29th

- i. Signage: the board discussed and approved the signage on Harry's Steakhouse;
- ii. Mural Code: there was also an update on the mural code as an FYI and mentioned that the HPC asked for language change in the code for the ghost signs;
- iii. Design standards: have gone through the City Attorney and changes for the DDRB will go to Council soon and Planning and Zoning Commission soon.
- iv. UND building demolitions: UND has reached out to the state with a list of buildings they plan to remove.
 1. Discussion regarding the buildings included questioning whether it is related to deferred maintenance. Commissioner Caraher noted that all of these building were being built when we had 5000 students living on campus and now there are 2000 so it is not viable. Looking out for the best economic case for the institution.
 2. SHPO has asked what our thoughts are on what should be documented. Residence halls are named after folks who have made
- v. App feedback: please email any feedback to the coordinator

6. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

- a. DeRemer home: – the coordinator spoke with one of the home owners and they are very excited to be moving into the home. She wanted to establish a line of communication with the HPC as they will have some questions on work they wish to undertake moving forward.
- b. County Courthouse: The coordinator met with the County Administrator, State's Attorney and Icon Architects on April 26th. Due to safety concerns there was a modification to the plan for the State's Attorney's office. It will no longer be floor to ceiling glass but will have a section of wall at the base to ensure modesty and additional safety for the staff behind there. In speaking with the architect, the work will be done in such a way that it will be fully reversible.
- c. Move back to City Hall: The coordinator met with the director of Inspections on May 3rd. The City is planning now to renovate the 2nd floor of City Hall and there

will be departmental moves as a result. GFHPC will temporarily be moving back to City Hall and will be located in his office until renovations are underway and another temporary move will be needed. Pending renovations of the Grand Forks Herald building mean staying in our current space is not going to be an option.

- d. The coordinator has written to the owner of the Hampton Apartments, historically known as the DeRoche Block, with advisement of our intent to prepare a nomination of the building.
- e. The coordinator is also writing a letter to the residents in the Baukol Addition regarding the HPC's intent to nominate the addition to the NRHP.
- f. The Midcentury Windshield Survey is complete except for adding figures. It will be ready to submit to the State hopefully next week.
- g. The Programmatic Agreement for Granitoid has been reviewed by the City Engineering Department and the SHSND and all edits have been incorporated into a final draft that will be sent to the City Attorney for final review. Once it is approved it will be sent to the SHSND Director and the Mayor for signature.

7. Other business

- a. May is Preservation Month and we are highlighting some of the city's assets through social media.
 - b. Commissioner Iseminger asked for an update on the Lyons building. The owner does have a permit to demolish.
 - c. Commissioner Munski advised of a public input meeting for public private partnership for housing on campus and will send details.
8. Motion to adjourn at 7:53pm. Moved Munski, second Swisher.