

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

**Draft Minutes  
January 11, 2022**

**Commissioners present:** Chuck Flemmer, Emily Wros, Nicole Derenne, Sandy Slater, Jacey Johnston, Doug Munski, Bill Caraher, Judy Swisher, Paul Conlon, Gordon Iseminger.

**Meeting called to order at 6:32pm**

1. Welcome to Emily Wros
2. Approval of minutes from December 14, 2021
  - a. Moved Swisher, second Derenne. Motion carries with amendment to add Jacey Johnston to the attendance list.
3. Section 106 Reviews: RRVCA
  - a. 909 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St – Motion: NHPA. Moved Slater, second Munski. Motion carries.
  - b. 1214 S. 12<sup>th</sup> S – Motion: NHPA. Moved, Swisher, second Derenne, motion carries.
  - c. 219 Seward Ave – Motion: No Adverse Effect. Moved Slater, second Munski. Motion carries. 1 nay.

**4. Ad Monkeys proposal for ongoing app funding**

Flemmer provided a recap of the app for new members and an update on the current status regarding the proposal for Ad Monkeys to take on the marketing strategy. Commissioners had a discussion of the landing page with some suggestions for improvement including reducing the amount of verbiage to perhaps just some bullet points. Comments included that the approach to the Benefactors listing is good and this allays concerns with the potential “commercialization” of the Commission. The question was raised as to what Ad Monkeys earns financially out of this arrangement. Motion to accept this direction: Moved Caraher, second Swisher.

Discussion continued relating to the agreement. Johnston noted the agreement needs some work and she would like to contribute to those amendments. Flemmer agreed that we would continue to work on the agreement for the next meeting. Caraher noted that in the meantime, there is no risk for the Commission. Motion carries.

5. **RFP for National Register Nomination for Baukol Addition** – No proposals submitted after second request. The coordinator proposed several options for the Commission to consider: (1) put the proposal out again for a third time; (2) undertake the project in house or; (3) decide on another project on which to spend the budget.

Motion to do the project in house. Moved Munski, second Caraher. Motion carries.

Motion to reassign budget of \$8,000 from project consultant to salary. Move Slater, Second Munski. Motion carries.

Discussion regarding doing this in house included whether there is precedent for internal shifting of funds for projects, noting that the budget for a Consultant with a 1099 versus employee differs due to status with regard to taxes and other deductions. Flemmer confirmed we have done this for recent projects such as the Midcentury Windshield Survey after the proposal was sent twice with no submissions. At that time, both the State and City approved the reallocation for the project to be done internally upon the vote of the Commission. The coordinator will reach out to the State first to determine if there are any concerns.

Integrity Survey of the 1950s Floodwall: Similarly this project did not garner any submissions probably due to the relatively small size and budget. Caraher who serves as the Commission Archaeologist offered to undertake this project and donate that time to the Commission. We have been able to secure quite a lot of literature including the Army Corp of Engineers 1950s comprehensive report. There is approximately \$1000 in the budget for any technical hire or printing of images etc. There will be no personal payment for this project.

## **6. FY2022 CLG Grant Application projects –**

The coordinator had provided several projects discussed in the past as a starting point for discussion, and asked Commissioners to share any other projects they might wish to see undertaken. Flemmer suggested we aim for three projects as has been typical in the past and in the event that one is turned down. Discussion included a Windshield Survey of Mid-century churches, a National Register nomination of the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND campus, Urban Renewal survey or preliminary research, research on the Trolley Barn and the City Detention Hospital, Lost Grand Forks (buildings on the river side of the flood wall), and possibly historic city parks. While prior requests for HABS funding for both the Trolley Barn and the City Detention Hospital were declined, it might be worth asking what other avenues there are for funding research.

Proposed projects for research and budgeting ahead of the February meeting include the Chester Fritz Auditorium National Register nomination, the survey of Midcentury churches and a preliminary report on the lost neighborhood between 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S. and the railroad tracks that was subject to urban renewal demolition. The coordinator will ask about documentation options for the Trolley Barn and Detention Hospital projects. The coordinator will draft the application based upon these project recommendations.

## **7. Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer**

The Sorlie Bridge Lighting Committee met on December 15. There was no discussion of lighting on the Kennedy Bridge. Both the MNSHPO and the NDSHPO removed themselves from the committee. Iseminger asked whether the SHPOs leaving weakens us. NDDOT and MNDOT remain part of the committee because they own the bridge. The regular annual lighting schedule was renewed but no other changes were approved.

## **8. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher**

- a. B'nai Israel Synagogue: As work has begun, the extent of the water damage is more than originally estimated. The Commission was contacted to see what other financial assistance might be available. I proposed a number of local and regional foundations. Other ideas are welcome.

- b. Engineering Department presented to the Committee of the Whole on January 10 for various street projects including the reconstruction of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S. This will eliminate the granitoid in that section but there is no plan to widen the road or remove any trees.
- c. The Q1 drawdown on the FY2021 grant will be sent to SHPO this week. Thank you for reviewing your donated labor forms.

**9. Other business:**

- a. Iseminger asked about the B'nai Israel matching grants and how much they were requesting.
- b. Iseminger asked about the Lyons building and referred to a recent article in the Grand Forks Herald that indicated some of the current building may be saved or retained in the new building. The coordinator will make some inquiries to ask what the current plan includes. Swisher asked about the project and whether it will be corner to corner.
- c. Iseminger asked about Ghost signs but there have not been any proposals.
- d. Iseminger asked about the Trolley Barn what plans, if any, we have for the sections of trolley track. At this time, since we have had not had success to get contractor for existing projects, there is nothing concrete.
- e. Iseminger noted the Entertaining History at the Grand Forks Historical Society on Sunday at 2pm.

**Motion to adjourn** - Moved Derenne, second Swisher. Motion carries.

Meeting ended at 8:20pm.

*Next meeting: February 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.*