

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

**Minutes**  
**December 14, 2021**

**Commissioners present:** Chuck Flemmer, Bill Caraher, Doug Munski, Judy Swisher, Paul Conlon, Gordon Iseminger, Sandy Slater, Brian Carlson, Jacey Johnston

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

1. Approval of minutes from November 9, 2021
  - a. Moved Slater, second Munski. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews: RRVCA
  - a. 1324 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N. – not in a historic district (Mike Fruetel): sheetrock portion of basement and spray foam rim joints.
    - i. Motion: NHPA. Moved Slater, second Caraher . Motion carries.
  - b. 1324 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N. – same house as above (Kevin Severson): install new architectural shingles, new metal combination storm door at entry, new vinyl window units to existing openings, new double pane basement vinyl slider window units to replace existing. Radon mitigation system.
    - i. Motion: NHPA. Moved Swisher, second Slater. Motion carries.
  - c. 507 27<sup>th</sup> Ave S – not in a historic district (Kevin Severson): install new architectural shingles, new metal combination storm door at front entry, new bathroom fan/light vent to main and basement baths vented outside, install new 96% efficiency gas fired furnace to replace existing, install new electric water heater to replace existing gas unit.
    - i. Motion: NHPA. Moved Slater, second Swisher . Motion carries.
  - d. 818 Cottonwood St – Near South Side Historic District (Kevin Severson): replace shingles, replace furnace, Radon mitigation system, interior sump pit and pump.
    - i. Motion: No Adverse Effect. Moved Iseminger, second Caraher . Motion carries

### **3. Ad Monkeys proposal for ongoing app funding**

We haven't yet received the mock up so we can either vote on the draft of the agreement or push it to next month. Johnston asked who is the target market and noted that while commercialization is not the goal who will benefit from involvement? Iseminger noted the Commission still needs to have some control and not allow it to be an advertorial space. There is agreement that we need to have some control over how that looks. For that reason, Munski recommended we wait until next month until we have the document from Ad Monkeys. Johnston suggested perhaps adding a paragraph to the MOU to clarify ownership and in the event of the breakup of the agreement. Swisher would like to know the percentage of what Ad Monkeys would retain from selling a sponsorship.

The coordinator will reach out again to ask for a mockup for the January meeting.

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

- a. DDRB meeting
  - i. Committee met on December 9th to approve signage for Joe Blacks which had requested a variance for a sign request that was too big however it was the same size as the one that was there prior so it was grandfathered in on this occasion.
- b. Member interviews
  - i. The chair and the coordinator conducted interviews for the final Member-at-Large position on the Commission and provided a recommendation to the Mayor which he subsequently approved. The recommendation of Emily Wros will go before the City Council meeting next Monday, December 20 for final approval. We anticipate having Emily join us for the January meeting.
- c. Meeting with Center for Exploration

- i. The chair and the coordinator met with Sally Miskavige and Dean Opp regarding the plans for a new children's museum on the south end. They are visiting with various constituencies to share plans and seek buy-in from as many as possible. They would like to have a component regarding Grand Forks history, and would like our input as well as GF Historical Society. We suggested a joint conversation at the January meeting. Iseminger would like us all to volunteer to join the Society. The coordinator will extend the invitations to the January meeting and upload the background information and mockup to Dropbox for the meeting.
- d. Sorlie Bridge lighting – There is an annual meeting of the Bridge Lighting committee on Thursday, December 16. There was some negative press regarding the lighting in the Grand Forks Herald recently pertaining to ad hoc requests. NDSHPO has advised it will be leaving the committee after this meeting. There has not yet been an indication from MNSHPO about what it plans to do. Swisher asked about the makeup of the committee and Flemmer mentioned there are seven organizations. Iseminger noted it has always been political and will continue to be so. There is an annual lighting schedule that is not so controversial but it remains complicated.

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

- a. Letter of support for B'nai Israel Synagogue
  - i. The Synagogue suffered water damage over the past couple of Spring seasons and is applying to the State for some matching grant restoration funding. They requested a letter of support for the project which was provided to the State.
- b. Water Treatment Plant RFQ
  - i. The coordinator has done some background research to determine how to go about documenting the buildings, what and how much documentation exists within the City departments with regard to floor plans, architectural plans, correspondence and photographs to draft a bid request for a HAER (Historical American Engineering Record) report. The coordinator reached

out to the author of a similar report done for Bucyrus, OH, who was able to shed light on the scope of work. Staff at the Water Treatment department have been very helpful, as has the City Administrator. It appears the Commission has time to conduct any and all research and documentation needed for a HAER report and may be able to supplement the technical report with additional recollections if needed. The project would be funded by the City as the owner of the building in anticipation of demolition later next year. A draft Request for Qualifications is in the packet and could be put out for proposals early next year.

1. Flemmer noted that the City is committed to spending the money to do a generous and detailed document.
2. Caraher asked whether there have been any other HAER reports in ND. Eight bridges and Nacoma in North Dakota have received HAER reports.

c. MOU for Ad Monkeys

- i. A copy of the draft MOU is in the packet. With the exception of the second to last bullet point, it has been reviewed by Ad Monkeys. Commissioners are asked to review and provide feedback if necessary.

d. Temporary Office Move

- i. Our office will move to the Amazon building December 22-23 after a short delay for telecommunications work.

e. Donated Labor Forms

- i. The coordinator will circulate the donated labor forms for October through December with the January meeting packet. Please review them and provide any edits ahead of the meeting. Final copies for signature will be in the January packet for the Q1 drawdown.

**6. Other business:**

- a. Iseminger asked about the photos that the Engineering department gave to the Commission and suggested some people who could assist with identification and labeling.

- b. United Lutheran is looking at some projects down the road including lighting, and they reached out to inquire about potential grants.
- c. The coordinator attended a webinar hosted by the National Association of Preservation Commissions: Mansards to McMansions looking at architectural styles since in the 1960s.

**7. Motion to adjourn.**

- a. Moved Munski, second Swisher. Motion carries. Meeting ended at 7:40pm.

*Next meeting: Tuesday January 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.*