

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

**Minutes**  
**May 10, 2022**

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

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

1. Approval of minutes from April 19 meeting.
  - a. Moved Iseminger, second Swisher. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews:
  - a. 1314 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St: Not in a historic district. Nothing on the exterior. Insulate crawl space, install smoke/co alarm. NHPA. Moved Derenne, second Swisher. Motion carries.
  - b. 710 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St: Not in a historic district. Install tan aggregate foundation panels on exposed foundation. NHPA. Moved Slater, second Derenne. Motion carries.
3. Preservation Awards
  - a. May is National Historic Preservation Month and is when we try to give some recognition to those who have done a good job with various projects.
    - i. Flemmer mentioned the Nicoa Building. The owner redid the windows in an historically appropriate way and since the building is largely covered in windows, it was quite an undertaking.
    - ii. Iseminger suggested three contenders. (1) Widmans Candy – 3 or 4 generations in Grand Forks. George Widman decided to stay downtown even after the flood. (2) Kim Holmes: Sanders, started in an historic building, and moved to a second historic building. (3) Rhombus Guys – at the Metropolitan Opera House. One of those buildings that was saved by the Historic Preservation Commission. All three examples have contributed to the historic character of downtown.

- iii. Swisher asked about which awards we have to give. Flemmer noted that the Griggs Award does not need to be given out each year. Other recognitions include the Porch Awards and a certificate of appreciation for a great renovation. Slater asked about new construction as has been done in the past. Carlson inquired about Riverside Manor which was awarded in 2016. Some work has been done on it since then.
- iv. Swisher noted that the Widmans is an interesting idea for the Griggs Award. Caraher noted that recognizing institutions that have a knock-on effect and that the Nicoa building would be a good porch project recognition.
  1. Motion: to award the Certificate of Appreciation for Extraordinary Rehabilitation to the owner of the Nicoa Building. Moved Slater, second Swisher. Motion carries.
  2. Motion: Award the Griggs Award to the Widman Family for maintaining a building and a business downtown. Moved Swisher, second by Slater. Slater recommends we do some research on the building and the business. Caraher recommends it be framed in terms of intangible heritage and underscored Iseminger's suggestion that it draws people into the historic downtown.
  3. The coordinator read aloud the description of the award that "recognizes exceptional personal efforts to preserve Grand Forks' built and cultural history."
  4. Conlon noted that Kim Holmes had a huge impact on downtown dining and has contributed to Sanders, the Toasted Frog, 1907 etc. with all locations being in historic buildings.
  5. Flemmer noted that we ought to try to preserve the integrity of the intent of the award. After further discussion Swisher withdrew the motion. Slater agreed to the withdrawal. Tabled until next month. Commissioners were asked to think about the Griggs Award in the meantime for Widmans, Holmes and others, and also do a little research on porch projects.

4. Commissioner Terms

- a. Several terms are up for renewal this July/August. Those whose terms are expiring were asked if they would like to renew their membership for another 2 year term.
- b. Chuck Flemmer - yes
- c. Gordon Iseminger - yes
- d. Bill Caraher – yes, would do it for another term but would intend to give the position to another archaeologist after this term, if one can be identified.
- e. Sandy Slater - yes

5. Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer

- a. DDRB met on 4/28. Central HS has built a new permanent garden shed.

6. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

i. Water Treatment Plant

1. Contract with Urbana Preservation is moving through the signatures. We will tweak the proposed deadlines due to the slight delay in officially kicking off, but they expect that the final deadline of end of September is still achievable.
  2. They have tentatively indicated that photography will take place in the last week of May. The coordinator had a reconnaissance visit to the site to get a sense for the condition of the building. GFPD has used it for training purposes and several windows are broken. There is a large part of the building untouched, however. Urbana Preservation is aware and not concerned noting that it is another chapter in the life of the building, and the coordinator has shared numerous photos from the visit to provide a realistic expectation.
- ii. The coordinator has reached out to seek a grant to assist with offsetting the cost of the granitoid mitigation. We are waiting to hear from the Education and Outreach coordinator at SHPO as to whether our request meets their criteria.

7. Other business: Swisher –GF Watercolor Society and GF Quilters have worked

collaboratively on projects that pair the works of artists in their representation of themed

subjects. The show has been rehung in Campbell Library until mid-June. Swisher's house was one of the sites chosen.

8. Motion to adjourn – Moved Derenne, second Swisher. Meeting ended at 7:27pm.

***Next meeting: June 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.***