

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

**Minutes (approved July 12 meeting)  
June 14, 2022**

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm**

1. Approval of minutes from May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - a. Moved Iseminger, second Derenne. 1 abstention due to absence. Motion carries.
  
2. 625 Belmont Road: Homeowner, Jennifer Haskett, attended to discuss potential projects that they would like to do including paint, wallpaper, and other decorative features. Flemmer noted that since these are not irreversible there would be no issue with changing paint etc. There is also an interior wall that may be moved. Slater suggested historic color palettes and Jennifer has already researched some of those. She is also looking at William Morris wallpaper, and other period-appropriate embellishments. Carlson mentioned that Bradbury and Bradbury wallpapers were used in the Gershman Graduate Center as another period option.

The coordinator will pass along contact information for Chester Fritz Library's Special Collections. Swisher noted Old House Journal could also be another resource and offered to pass along copies of Victorian home magazines.

3. Section 106 Reviews:
  - a. RRVCA - 729 S. 25<sup>th</sup> St: Not in a historic district. Nothing on the exterior. Changes include insulating the attic, C/O and smoke alarms.
    - i. Motion- NHPA. Moved Iseminger, second Slater. Motion carries.
  
4. Grand Forks Preservation Awards:

- a. Move to recognize retired architect, Bill Schoen with the Griggs Award. Moved by Iseminger, second by Slater. Motion carries.  
Schoen is known for his work on the Great Northern Depot, Freight House apartments, infill on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, the County Office building, the Courthouse and others. Motion carries. The coordinator will reach out to Mr. Schoen for a bio and to make arrangements for the presentation of the award at an upcoming City Council meeting.
5. State Historic Preservation Awards:
  - a. The deadline is rather quick if we wish to nominate someone. Derenne suggested Mike Jacobs for the Excellence in Local History. He conducts a regional history, and offers an independent study at UND. While there was no motion, the Commission could create a list of potential candidates for future years' awards so we have something ready to submit.
6. Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer
  - a. DDRB met on 6/2/22
    - i. Reviewed final exterior plans for Franklin on Fourth. Items discussed include a couple of balconies are cantilevered into the public right of way. Entrance to parking garage is on a street however design standards ask for alley access. In this case it was approved due to the small size of the alley, garbage pickup and that they are also hoping to make the alley active as a pedestrian space. There is a little bit of a cut-in as a nod to where Lyons used to be and to give the building a bit of dimension. They were given an exemption for this as it is also outside design standards.
    - ii. GF high schools want digital signs to advertise their athletic events that will also have sponsor logos – these are revenue generators for their athletic booster clubs. Normally this kind of signage would not be allowed downtown, but since RRHS has one, the City will create an exemption in the ordinance to accommodate this need. This sign would be a monument sign on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and University Ave.
  - b. Wesley United Methodist Church window: A member of the public reached out to the Reverend upon reading the story of the Church closure in the Grand Forks Herald, to ask the future of a historic stained glass window from the previous

church. Flemmer talked with the director at the GF County Historical Society about the window.

7. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

i. Water Treatment Plant photography:

1. The coordinator spent two days at the old Plant with Urbana Preservation's photographer, Rob Park who conducted large format photography on a number of spaces inside the buildings. Some snapshots were uploaded to the meeting packet in Dropbox.

ii. DeRoche nomination second draft:

1. Rebekah Shields from Metcalf provided a second draft of the nomination which was reviewed by Dr. Iseminger and the coordinator for final edits and feedback. She has now completed these edits and is awaiting final photos of the building before sending it to us by July 1<sup>st</sup> for the State's review. We anticipate scheduling the hearing for our next meeting and then the State Review Board presentation would be at their August meeting.

iii. FY21 projects extension:

1. SHPO received an extension on FY21 projects for an additional year due to the pandemic. These include the Baukol Addition nomination and the Floodwall Integrity Survey, however, both projects are being worked on and it is anticipated that they will both be completed well in advance of the extension date.

iv. Commissioner reappointments:

1. Our four reappointments were approved at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Flemmer, Caraher, Iseminger and Slater can anticipate reappointment letters from the Mayor.

v. Downtown mural project:

1. The Downtown Development Association (DDA) has put out an RFP for one, but potentially two, murals downtown. The primary location is on the newer brick façade facing Town Square on the side of the old Wells Fargo building. If there is budget available, the

second is slated for the side of the Odd Fellows building in the pocket park. That surface is stucco and is not original.

vi. FY22 Grant Review feedback

1. Status of the Chester Fritz Auditorium needs to be verified. The coordinator will connect with SHPO when Lorna returns next week.
2. Midcentury Churches Windshield Survey – SHPO advised all churches were recorded in the 1999 survey and therefore have site forms.
3. Historic Contexts for the Trolley Barn and the City Detention Hospital need to be a broader topic than one building.
4. The inner west neighborhood history would be a possible article in ND History.

8. Other business:

- a. The coordinator is planning to be out of the office between August 16 and September 8.
- b. The Masonic Center is hosting a building tour from 6:30pm to 8pm on Tuesday, June 28.

9. Motion to adjourn – Moved Derenne, second Carlson. Meeting ended at 7:31 pm.

***Next meeting: July 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.***