

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

Minutes
October 11, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

1. Approval of minutes from September 20, 2022
 - a. Moved Swisher, second Caraher. One abstention. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews:
 - a. 1005 S. 9th St: Not in a historic district. Proposing insulation in walls and possibly 2 attics. Smoke and c/o detectors, lightbulbs.
 - i. Motion: NHPA. Moved Munski, second Derenne. Motion carries.
 - b. 711 Cherry St: Not in a historic district. Proposing installing foundation panels on all exposed foundations. Smoke and c/o detectors, lightbulbs.
 - i. Motion NHPA.: Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.
3. Section 106 process
 - a. Our colleagues in the Bismarck CLG have a three-tier system for reviewing Section 106s. These are staff only, staff and one commissioner and full commission. They do this so as not to delay any weatherization projects that could impact the comfort or safety of those clients.
 - i. The GFHPC coordinator proposes adopting a similar system to help expedite approvals for minor interior projects. These are always signed by the Chair, and therefore could be reviewed at their weekly meeting for approval.
 - ii. Exterior projects would continue to be reviewed by the full commission.
 - iii. Major interior projects would be reviewed by the full commission.
 1. Motion: Provide authority to Chair and Coordinator to approve minor requests for interior projects on a weekly basis. Any questionable interior projects and all exterior projects would be

reviewed by the Commission. Moved Swisher, second Conlon.

Motion carries.

4. 125 S. 5th Street – Juvenile Detention Center

- a. The coordinator met with two representatives of the Center to consider how best to install the windows without removing or damaging the granite panels. The coordinator suggested adjusting the existing panel of windows to enable two of these panels to open.
- b. County Commissioner reached out regarding their need to install the windows in compliance with safety requirements, indicating they would like to put the windows where the granite panels exist. He also noted that they don't wish to expend any money more than is necessary due to it being tax payer dollars and that the building will be torn down in the next few years. For this reason it seems unlikely that the County will fund that documentation, however the coordinator did note the Commission may wish to see the building. They are seeking the approval of the Commission to move forward with installing the windows where the granite panels are currently.
- c. Further research from the Inspections department file shows the building is a 1953 Wells Denbrook design.
 - i. Check with Special Collections for the blueprints
 - ii. Request the County to keep the granite
 - iii. Motion to approve the plan to change the façade of the Juvenile Detention Center to allow for safe egress windows. Moved Slater, second Derenne.
Motion carries.

5. Chair report – Chuck Flemmer

- a. The chair and coordinator attended the annual CLG conference in Bismarck on September 30. Almost all of the CLGs were represented as well as several staff members from the SHSND. The events included a welcome from the Director, Bill Peterson, some updates from Grants and CLG coordinator, Amy Munson, and a presentation from Andy Clarke, Director of Archaeology. His department plans to increase its focus on historical archaeology such as farmsteads and industrial sites. Paul DeMers, DOT discussed “Working as One” and acknowledged working with Grand Forks on trolley tracks. Maria Effertz-Hansen – Main Street initiatives. Tour

of Highland Acres, their recently nominated sub-division. City of Bismarck discussed their 150th anniversary plans and merchandising as well as an Augmented Reality scavenger hunt partnering with a company in Bismarck. They also discussed their timeline project.

6. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

- a. DeRoche Block National Register nomination – We were advised by the State that the owner of the building has decided to object to the nomination meaning that it will not be listed. The State Review Board will still hear the presentation at the meeting on October 28 and will consider it as a Determination of Eligibility. If the owner changes her mind, or if the building changes owners in the future, it would be easier to move it to the National Register. The coordinator also noted that the owner was contacted no fewer than four times: before, during and after the preparation of the research and to invite her to the public presentation. The owner did not respond to any of these communications until she was notified by the State.
- b. CLG online conference (September 23, 2022): Coordinators and other representatives from each of the CLGs provided updates on current projects.
 - i. **Bismarck** has developed a Talking Trail with 10 sites, some walking maps, as well as collaborated with others for a city-wide celebration of the 150th anniversary. Another significant project as part of the 150th was the development of a timeline that will be produced in print and also have an online version. **Buffalo** continues to work on the restoration of the School house. **Dickinson** has added the Power Plant as a local landmark. **Fargo's** presentation looked at the city's historic overlays and their design standards, including monitoring new construction including garages. **Devils Lake** has had some setbacks with their oral history project in large part related to COVID-19. **Pembina** and **Walsh** counties shared their projects including their joint brochure and site tours. Walsh is also undergoing a website update and oral history project.
- c. Final HAER report: Urbana Preservation and Planning has completed the report with the exception of a half dozen or so edits. They have also uploaded a lot of the supporting research materials, photos, historic newspaper articles, and interview transcript into an information package. They are preparing a print version of the

report to send by mail. The revised version of the report had taken into account the feedback that we had previously offered which resulted in a much improved narrative.

- d. Chester Fritz Auditorium Draft RFP: the coordinator has shared the draft with SHPO for clarification on dates and GSA information. The RFP is scheduled to be distributed by October 24th with review of proposals at the December meeting.
 - e. UND History intern: the Commission is working with the History Department to provide an internship opportunity for Spring. Connor Grenier is interested in public history with a view to going to graduate school. Some of the projects that he could assist with and learn from include the 1950s floodwall survey, Baukol nomination, the Lost Neighborhood, as well as learn about federal and state compliance and procedures for Section 106s and documentation projects. Bill Caraher has offered to be the point person for the internship, but the student will have an opportunity to work with a variety of people.
 - f. Granitoid: It is still the plan to complete the installation in Kannowski Park this Fall. The coordinator sought advice from Finance regarding the “surplus-ing” of the remaining pieces since Public Works will not want to store it indefinitely. It was agreed that since the value of the concrete is so arbitrary and minimal (>\$200) we can offer it to the two residents who expressed interest in it, and treat it as a private arrangement. Since it is a road surface, it would otherwise be sent to the landfill.
7. Other business:
- a. Donated labor forms for Q4: the coordinator plans to send the Q4 drawdown to SHPO next week.
 - b. Zoom access: Commissioners were asked how important they feel maintaining Zoom is for meetings going forward. It is a subscription that we pay for each month, and with the set up in A102 now requiring us to use our laptop to connect to Zoom, it makes it more cumbersome to run the virtual meeting and take minutes simultaneously. Munski suggested not making it available any longer. Move to end Zoom. Munski, second Swisher. Motion
 - c. SHPO grant applications for FY23: Amy Munson, Grants and CLG coordinator noted that she hopes to have the applications for the NEXT grant cycle out to the

CLGs soon after Thanksgiving. Commissioners are asked to consider what projects could be pursued. The coordinator will send a list of previously considered projects.

- d. Move update: our office will be moving back to City Hall on November 8th, with Engineering.
 - e. Iseminger: check minutes – Jewish cemetery, group of students taking measurements – Kim Porter. Get documentation
 - f. 10th ave n and Washington – Albrecht's. He would like it on the National Register. Insurance company didn't want it to be listed.
8. Move to adjourn – Munski, Slater. 7:33pm