

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

Minutes
December 20, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

1. Approval of minutes from November 8, 2022
 - a. Moved Swisher, second Carlson. Motion carries.
 - i. Iseminger asked for any update on the plan for the old Water Treatment Plant, the status of the Edgewood building's escalator, and whether the murals in the Court House have been damaged due to the leaking from the dome.
2. Section 106 Reviews: One review was approved administratively per the new procedure in place: 1605 University Ave: change rear door from hollow core to steel, insulate basement and potentially replace basement windows, light bulbs and smoke detectors.
3. Chester Fritz Auditorium National Register nomination proposal
 - a. Commissioners discussed the proposal.
 - i. Motion to approve proposal from Prairie Center Architecture and Consulting. Moved Iseminger, second Slater. Motion carries
 1. Slater has knowledge of several resources that will be helpful to the Consultant when the time comes to begin research.
4. Conference Center at 2724 University Ave is slated for demolition: house is non-contributing. What documentation should we ask to be done. Iseminger asked whether there should be anything salvaged since it was a sorority at one time. The Commission should ask that the building get at least some minimal documentation and photos. Interior, exterior, location, dates and photos.
5. Chair report: Nothing to report.

6. Coordinator Report

a. 2023 CLG RFP

- i. We received the CLG RFP last Friday for our next grant application. It is due February 17th so the Commission will need to finalize the list of projects at the January meeting and then vote at the February meeting Commission meeting on the application. The February meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 14th. The Coordinator will present the short list of options for final approval in January in order to prepare the final packet for vote in February. Commissioners are asked to contact the coordinator with any additional projects for exploration ahead of the January meeting.
- ii. Derenne asked about the website since several of our projects in recent years concern nominations of buildings. The coordinator offered the need for an improved website to better address our education and public outreach efforts.
- iii. Flemmer also mentioned a photo archive.

b. Met with Conor Grenier – Spring intern

- i. The Chair and coordinator met with Conor Grenier who will be interning with the Commission in the Spring to learn what he is interested in doing and consider some potential projects.

c. RFP for Historic Context of Lost Neighborhood due January 3rd

- i. Commissioners are asked to share the RFP (linked on our website: gfpreservation.com) with anyone they know who might be interested and capable of writing this project. The deadline for proposals is January 3rd.

d. Old Jail plans on file at CFL

- i. The coordinator looked at the Wells Denbrook oversized folder at Special Collections to determine that there are a number of sketches, plans and blueprints on file. If the County proceeds with demolition in the future, it is noted that the 1950s plans are on file.

e. Assisting Park District and Public Info with some research

- i. The Park District is researching the naming of the City's Parks and queried 4 Parks that are named after the additions/subdivisions where they are located.

- ii. We also sourced several historic holiday photos for the City's social media campaign this month.
- f. Old City Hall entrance: security upgrades
 - i. City maintenance staff are planning to upgrade the front entrance of City Hall to improve security. We discussed possible options, and we were able to find copies of the original blueprints to share with Maintenance. The current entrance is not original to the building however it is in the same design as seen on the blueprints. There was a 20 year covenant on City Hall which expired this past May.
- g. Update on potential website upgrade
 - i. Both the City website provider and our current provide could do this for us. Joe Greenwood built the current site in around 2010 and estimates it would take approximately 10 hours to move it to a new and updated theme. At his current hourly rate, it would cost approximately \$760 plus any time for the coordinator to do a comprehensive clean up and content update. The City could also assist, but we would be confined to the City's design, and potentially more time for the coordinator to rebuild it on that platform.
- h. Franklin Alley
 - i. The developers of the Franklin on 4th building have asked for some suggestions for providing a brand identity to the alley commercial spaces.
 1. Lyons Lane
 2. Lyons Alley
 3. Roller Skate Row (Jack's Roller Rink was on the corner)
 4. Auto Alley
 5. Franklin Alley
 6. Lyons Hub
 7. Benny Boulevard (a riff on Ben Franklin 100's)
 8. Something related to vehicles. Lyons was the most iconic architecture on that block and first started as a business fixing bicycles then cars.

- i. DeRoche Block DOE
 - i. The State has confirmed that the DeRoche Block will be considered for DOE again after a round of edits suggested at the October meeting. The board will meet January 27th.
- 7. Other business
 - a. Congratulations to Commission member, Paul Conlon, on the successful defense of his MA in History!
 - b. Cultural Heritage Grants from State Historical Society.
 - c. History of Baseball in Grand Forks: The coordinator is meeting with a member of the public who is interested in the history of the GF Chiefs, the local baseball team from the 1930s to the 1960s. He is looking for some assistance with various resources.
 - i. Erik Bergeson wrote the history of baseball in Halstad, MN, "Pirates on the Prairie". Morgan Printing in Grafton. Digital copy.
- 8. Move to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Moved Munski, second Johnston.