

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

**Minutes**  
**June 13, 2023**

**Commissioners present:** Chuck Flemmer, Doug Munski, Gordon Iseminger, Sandy Slater, Nicole Derenne, Judy Swisher, Brian Carlson.

**Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm**

1. Approval of minutes from May 9, 2023
  - a. Moved Iseminger, second Swisher. Motion carries.
    - i. Iseminger asked about the murals on schools.
    - ii. Wesley College installation.
2. Section 106 Reviews: Administratively reviewed – 514 Belmont Rd: Interior work only including insulation in the attic, basement and knee walls, light bulbs, smoke and c/o alarms.
3. Nominations for SHPO History Awards – due Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of three awards offered by SHPO.
4. Chair report:
  - a. DDRB meeting on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>, final approval of the Artisan plans for the renovation. Commercial spaces, roof top space, types of materials.
    - i. Swisher asked about whether we know where the businesses are coming from to occupy commercial spaces.
5. Coordinator Report:
  - a. Request to switch projects
    1. The coordinator reached out to the Grants and Contracts coordinator at SHPO to ask whether we could switch our FY22 Lost Neighborhood Historic Context with our FY23 Website Overhaul project in terms of funding. Both projects are approximately the same level of funding but it would allow us to move forward now on the website and perhaps revisit the historic context again. Because the website project involves moving project dollars to salary, the

coordinator is requesting a Commission vote. The salary hours assigned to the project are \$3120.

2. Motion: Approve the switching of two projects as discussed and request that the salary dollars outlined for the website project be moved to the salary line. Moved Iseminger , second Slater.
- b. Baukol Historic District National Register nomination: The nomination has been reviewed internally and partially reviewed by SHPO. The coordinator is working through the edits.
  - c. Old building permit ledgers: the coordinator delivered all of the ledgers to the Myra Museum. Leah Byzewski will determine what will be done with them.
  - d. NAPC Virtual Summer Short Course Aug 23 & 24: SHPO is offering to cover the attendance fee for a two-day virtual meeting. The notice from the NAPC notes “Presenters from a range of professional backgrounds will explore topics such as preservation incentives, outreach to property owners in historic districts, demolition by neglect, small scale development, cultural significance, and finding (and encouraging the training of) qualified contractors to work on historic buildings”. If any Commissioners would like to be included, they are asked to advise the coordinator by Thursday.
  - e. Empire Arts: the chair and the coordinator visited with the Empire’s executive director on Thursday, June 8, to discuss a small renovation project on their concession stand. They also have a longer term wish list to make other interior improvements, but would need to secure grants or other fundraising. These include new stage flooring, curtains, carpet and acoustic tile mural refresh. There is a covenant on the Empire Arts Center until 2025 and the executive director felt that it would be unlikely the work would be done before that.
    - i. Flemmer asked whether how we might know where the seats might have been originally. Brian thinks that JLG had one of the ends and might be able to determine. Gordon suggested Ken Dawes also might know.
    - ii. Flemmer also mentioned that they are still storing a pipe organ and are interested in doing something with it. Carlson asked if they might be interested in restoring it. Swisher mentioned Michael Barone on MPR who

knows everything about pipe organs. Serial numbers, company information would help with research.

- f. Oldest house in Grand Forks: the coordinator received a phone call from a local resident who posed the question about the oldest house in Grand Forks, or the oldest in each district. His own house is listed as 1880.
  - g. Special Collections has collected all of the topo maps and will be scanning them this summer.
  - h. Chester Fritz Auditorium nomination: Agatha Frisby has worked through the edits provided by the GFHPC review and has sent the updated draft to SHPO for their review.
6. Other business:
- a. Agatha Frisby has also been working on HABS reports for parts of the UND campus including areas of housing and the conference center. She will provide us with copies of the reports when they are sent to the State.
  - b. School murals update: Planning and Zoning Commission voted 5-4 to move forward to recommend the approval of a large mural on the side of Valley Middle School. The Council will review the recommendation on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
7. Move to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Moved Munski, second Derenne.

**Next meeting is Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30pm**