

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

Minutes
August 8, 2023

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

Guest: Agatha Frisby, Prairie Center Architecture & Consulting, President Andy Armacost.

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm

1. Approval of minutes from July 11th 2023. Moved Munski, second Slater.
2. **Welcome and Procedure for Public Presentation of Nomination (Chuck Flemmer)**
 - a. Motion to open the public hearing. Moved Swisher, second Derenne.
 - b. Public Presentation: National Register Nomination of the Chester Fritz Auditorium (Agatha Frisby).
 - i. Comments and questions from Commissioners
 1. Flemmer – one of the first buildings on campus of importance to incoming freshmen
 2. Caraher – first memories of the building on campus were not impressive, but it is the most prominent Cold War building on campus; the funding of the NEA, and the establishment of the Kennedy Center, extending the history through the cold war and the importance of the arts to ND.
 3. Slater – noted it would be good to see a sentence or two about Katherine Tiffany and George Starcher. It was Tiffany who leaned on Fritz for his donations. Information can be found in her papers especially, the quote re: the donation “With a warm hand”.
 4. Derenne – noted the issue of patronage donation for several buildings even though they look quite different. Question about the placement in relation to the historic district. She noted that having toured the building some years ago, that the rust colored carpet may still be seen in some of the closets.

5. Iseminger – was teaching on campus when it was being built. Found it so interesting to learn how impressive it was, and to have our own architect be the designer. The chandelier was a gift from Starcher, and that might be a good point to add.
 6. Frisby – played in an orchestra and one of the reasons she turned her attention to architecture.
- ii. Comments and questions from public.
 1. Armacost noted it was a wonderful presentation and gave a new appreciation for what went into it et c, the use of design. He mentioned the experience when stand at the podium and seeing a full auditorium. He noted that he will take the opportunity to introduce the building to others/new students.
 - iii. Vote by Commission to refer to the State Review Board
 1. Motion: to refer to the State Review Board. Moved Slater, second Iseminger. Motion carries.
 2. Iseminger asked about President Armacost about programming for the venue, issues with the ease of ticket purchasing, and thanked the President for coming, asking whatever his office can do highlight would be appreciated.
- c. Public Presentation: National Register Nomination of the Baukol Historic District (Susan Caraher).
- i. Comments and questions from Commissioners
 1. Little gem
 2. Slater noted the fortunate use of the census
 3. Caraher noted that the streetscape of 4th is unadulterated and remarkably preserved.
 4. Slater asked about the omission of the Lustron house from the presentation, but because it is considered non-contributing, it was left out for time reasons.
 - ii. Comments and questions from public.
 - iii. Vote by Commission to refer to the State Review Board
 1. Motion: to move to the State Review Board. Moved Munski, Second Swisher. Motion carries. 1 abstention (B. Caraher).
- d. Close Public Presentation
1. Motion to close public presentation. Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.
3. Section 106 Reviews:
- a. 129 Seward Ave – *Administratively approved. Interior only.*

- b. 1915 17th Ave S. (not in a historic district)
 - i. changing the exterior wood door on the west side
 - 1. Motion: NHPA. Moved Slater, second Derenne. Motion carries.
 - c. 1124 Linden Ct (not in a historic district)
 - i. Changing both wood entry doors to steel and adding insulation to attic. Smoke and C/O detectors.
 - 1. Motion: NHPA. Moved Caraher, second Derenne. Motion carries.
4. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
- a. DDRB met on July 27th to reconsider the Central High School digital sign. This is for the school's booster program to show advertisements that will help pay for programs. DDRB said they would consider after an ordinance change. The school brought a variance for consideration, wanting to install a 12ft high sign on the grounds where the DDRB guidelines limit the height to 8ft. DDRB rejected the request.
5. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
- a. Commissioner reappointments: these were approved by both the Committee of the Whole and Council. Appointment letters will follow soon.
 - b. Walk through of UND Conference Center: UND reached out with an offer to do a final walk through of Delta Zeta and conference center before demolished. The chair and coordinator visited the building on July 27th.
 - c. Empire backstage entrance mural: The executive director reached out to ask permission to paint a mural on the backstage entrance. It would be applied to the already-painted concrete block area at the rear. They will apply for a grant to fund it likely next Spring.
 - d. Grand Forks County Courthouse
 - i. Commissioners approved a contract for JLG Architects to conduct security upgrades to the county courthouse including a secure entrance, mass notification system for emergencies and an X-ray machine to screen visitors' bags.
 - ii. Commissioners approved a professional services contract from Miller Dunwiddie – a Minneapolis-based architecture firm – to begin planning on repairs to the courthouse dome.
 - e. GFH building sign: The City is beginning to think about rebranding the GFH building to The Hive since the Herald has moved out. What permission, if any, would they need? Not technically a historic building but in reality it is.
 - f. Belmont trees: the City Engineering Dept is beginning to plan for a Belmont Rd reconstruction from 4th to 17th and noted that this would likely impact some of the mature trees along those blocks. Flemmer noted that it is going to be a big deal for the residents. He also noted that they took extra care to protect them on 4th Ave.

- g. District brochures delivered to Visit Grand Forks and the Horticultural Society annual meeting. Munski – 100th anniversary State Horticulture Society held on campus.
6. Other business: Discussion of GFHPC meeting time. Tabled for next meeting.
 7. Call to adjourn: Motion Slater, second Swisher. Meeting closed 8:06pm.