

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

Minutes
April 9th, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from March 12, 2024. Moved Iseminger, second Slater. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews:
 - a. 1405 S. 15th St: Not in a historic district. Includes exterior work. Motion: NHPA
 - i. Moved Munski , second Johnston. Motion carries.
 - b. 611 22nd Ave S. Not in a historic district. Includes exterior work. Motion: NHPA
 - i. Moved Johnston, second Munski . Motion carries.
 - c. 7325 S 55th St. Not in a historic district. Trailer. Administratively approved.
 - d. 2532 8th Ave N. Not in a historic district. Interior only. Administratively approved.
 - e. Request sent to SHPO on behalf of Planning for a cultural inventory review.
 - i. The City is working to purchase land on 62nd Ave South between Cherry and Cottonwood Street and it requires a Section 106 Review. It has been ploughed farmland since at least the 1950s with no building on the site. We are working with the Planning staff to request a cultural inventory review should there have been any survey, historically.
3. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
 - a. Meredith Richard's retirement was Thursday April 4th and her last day was Friday.
4. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
 - a. FY24 Grant – SHPO has approved our grant application that includes a preservation master plan.
 - b. Babcock mitigation – UND meeting
 - i. The chair and the coordinator met with representatives from UND, Alumni Association and NDSHPO to discuss mitigation possibilities. The coordinator gave a very brief introduction to the building including the

architectural description, School of Mines and the Margaret Kelly Cable ceramics studio. It was noted that there had been consideration at one time, of adapting the building to house the University's Big Data program for the Department of Engineering, but the decision was ultimately made that suitable and no other departments wanted to claim the building. The current design plan doesn't include building anything on the site but rather keep it as open space. We expressed our appreciation to the University for its high level documentation of buildings taken down in the past, and acknowledged the need to respectfully consider the Native American community in what plans might develop. We requested Babcock receive a high level HABS report with additional documentation in the context to include Margaret Kelly Cable's studio and departments that had occupied the building

- ii. Other ideas for preservation included both physical and digital options such as interpretive plaques, enhanced wayfinding signage with historic interpretation, 3D modeling, GIS story maps, and a dedicated web presence for the lost buildings of the campus. It was noted that any plan for digital preservation should take into account a long term plan to protect against changing technologies and access.
- iii. The coordinator also raised the idea put forward by Dr Munski for a pollinator garden and ghosting the outline of the foundation. The State noted a project at Ft Abercrombie. UND suggested perhaps the Getty Foundation might be a funding option.
- iv. Next step is for the State to take the lead on a mitigation plan for Babcock. The building will not be demolished any time soon and we will have the opportunity to do a walk through in advance. The coordinator is scheduled to meet with the State on Thursday to prioritize the mitigation requests.
- v. Pollinator Garden – Dr Munski
 1. Presently waiting for the best time to hear back from SHPO and HPC about when it might be best to move forward. Several members of the Native American community have been contacted and asked to be involved. No reason there can't be sidebar conversations about possibilities. The building was also integral to the economic story of

the State. Jan Heitmann from All Seasons is a good source for species and possible plantings.

- a. Healing, reconciliation and learning of the building.
- b. Slater - Special Collections has all of the MKC records.

c. Campus preservation plan

- i. We also discussed a campus preservation plan and it was noted that UND could be a leader in this area for the State educational institutions. This would be a much larger undertaking. This might help to weather trends in the face of the growth of campus construction and help to trigger a conversation before decisions are finalized. There also needs to be some preservation plan for Gufstason which is currently empty – it should be noted that it is NOT slated for removal.
- ii. Some other issues were briefly discussed including the columns from Old Main (likely to stay in situ for the next tenant) and named buildings (Alumni Association attempts to contact the families).

d. Chamber of Commerce bldg.

- i. The coordinator reached out to the Chamber after learning of possible plans for future work on the building. The Chamber reported that the north end of the building has been slowly sinking each year since 1997 and will reach the point where it will structurally impact the roof and walls. They have had an architectural rendering done for a new multi-story building on the site but it is worth noting that nothing will likely happen for at least 5 years. Their preference would be to fix the structural issue and keep it as long as possible. Barry was a member of the Watertown, SD HPC for 20 years and appreciates the character contribution historic buildings give to downtowns. We will share appropriate grant information from the State or federal programs as they become available.

e. Masonic Center – the front doors were deteriorating beneath the copper, and have been removed to a local carpenter for repair. They also had one of their backdrops repaired over the winter, and were very happy with the outcome. The board is also seeking grant money to help structurally reinforce the state the will allow them host different events such as ballets and other dance performances.

- f. CFA name request – UND is considering a new name for the Chester Fritz Auditorium to the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center. They plan to submit this request to the SBHE.
 - g. UND 150th concert – April 28th 1:30 p.m. in the Hughes Fine Arts recital hall
 - h. Grand Forks 150th publication – Bill Caraher
 - i. Walnut Street reconstruction – the Engineering Department is planning a summer reconstruction of a section of Walnut Street that runs behind the GF Police Station. Because there is some granitoid in this section, we will ask for a map and project description to add to our file and the State’s site file. We will also ask for GPS points to be taken to document the location of the railway spur that crosses the street to what was once the Russell Miller Mill.
 - j. Donated labor forms
5. Other business:
- a. NDSU Press Party April 13th for Dr Iseminger’s All-American Turkey Show
 - b. Iseminger followed up on the Metropolitan and for signage
6. Call to adjourn at 6:53 pm: Moved Munski, second Johnston. Motion carries.

Next meeting is May 14th, 2024.