

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

Minutes
October 8th, 2024

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

Guests: Chad Caya, Collin Hanson, Sally Miskavige and Jill Nelson, Robert Carrington, Evan Hermanson, Benjamin DeLuca, Casey Opstad, Jacey Johnston.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from September 17th, 2024. Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews: none for this meeting
3. Coca-Cola Ghost Signs restoration proposal – Chad Caya – painter and artist, PAC
 - a. Jill Nelson – PAC is working on beautification projects as a way to give back to the community, and hiring Grand Forks locals to help spend funds on the message and on the local community.
 - b. 2025 project.
 - i. Restoring and repairing public art.
 - ii. Chad Caya is – wants to make sure the signs are not lost for ever
 - iii. Flemmer noted that the HPC has been looking at them for a while.
 - iv. Chad and Susan gave a recap of their meeting with Collin Hanson and Andy Conlon the previous week.
 1. Chad noted that he had researched colors of the Coca Cola advertisements, and how to distress them by coloring them first and then put a flat varnish over the top. He noted there are different approaches and that in terms of method, he would treat the brick with a masonry sealer on the original sign. The coordinator recommended also testing the existing paint for lead as a safety precaution.

2. Derenne encouraged developing a rationale for restoration rather than preservation.
3. Several questions raised include: Who makes the decision on the color? How do we deal with the vent behind the Opera House?
4. Chad noted he would likely use historical brick to repair the awning scar. He would work with the building owners on these repairs.
5. The group discussed the complexity of the sign on the rear of the Opera House and the need to do additional research on all of the elements in that sign. We have posted a message to our Facebook followers to ask whether people have old photos of the rear of the building – was there a courtyard in that area? 1997 flood photos may provide some documentary evidence of the sign.
6. Flemmer noted that it would be beneficial and appropriate to include an educational piece for restored ghost signs that provide information about the history of the signage.
7. Jill Nelson mentioned that PAC has partnered with the CVB to register on the public art registry.

Motion: to approve, in principal the restoration of the ghost signs on the Opera House and the Pillsbury Park.

Moved Johnston, **second** Slater.

There should be further discussion to determine the parameters and complete the research for the Opera House sign. The Pillsbury Park sign would be a better restoration to lead with because it is much simpler.

Munski recalled that Iseminger had a particular interest in the ghost sign and wondered whether he, too, would be in favor? Motion carries.

For information about the public art registry, go to Visit Greater Grand Forks.

4. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
 - a. Water Treatment Plan Redevelopment Steering Committee meeting and presentation
 - i. Next meeting and public meeting, Tuesday October 15th
 - ii. Public meeting is at 5:30pm at the Hive – all invited

- b. DDRB meeting Thursday October 10th – sign appeal for The Artisan
 - c. Fire Hall Theatre – potentially repaint a Dalmation mural on the old garage doors.
Go through the usual mural ordinance.
5. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
- a. CLG Conference – hosted by Bismarck CLG.
 - i. **Amy Munson:** gave a recap of grant end dates and hopes to get the FY25 grant applications out soon after Thanksgiving. There was \$20k left from this year’s allocation that needs to be claimed to avoid having to send it back to the NPS. Buffalo has an immediate need and will almost certainly apply.
 - ii. Program audits are due – Amy will be reaching out.
 - iii. Next CLG conference will be Fall 2026 and also the next NAPC will be in Minneapolis in 2026. Some representatives from the Bismarck office and commission attended in West Palm Beach this past August.
 - iv. **Bill Peterson:** SHS Foundation received a \$5.8 million bequest for the Stutsman County Courthouse – a/c and elevator
 - 1. He also noted a 70, 000 ft expansion of the Heritage Center for the military museum and events space with a ND-focused restaurant.
 - 2. The SHSND has changed its mission statement this past year to “Empower through History”.
 - v. Lorna Meidinger: Review and Compliance requests are up 33%.
 - 1. Historic sites are now under the Museums department – some restructuring over the past year with team and job changes.
 - 2. NRHP applications are up again.
 - 3. Their Ft. Totten NR listing amendment is in draft stage.
 - 4. UND NAGRPA – some of the federal laws have changed and so the State is also updating their internal policies.
 - vi. Keynote speakers presented on several takeaways from the NAPC conference in Florida.
 - vii. Each of the present CLG offices gave updates on their activities.
 - b. County Fairgrounds grant application for repair of west wall
 - c. UND Field House documentation delivered

- d. County Courthouse Dome Repair
 - e. Postcards
 - f. Great American Folk Show podcast
 - g. Preservation Forum webinar: Mandeville, Louisiana's Journey to Flood Adaptation.
 - h. Invitation to visit UND Public History class on Oct 23rd
 - i. Annual report for SHPO due November 1st
6. Other business:
- a. Greenway updates input – levee access
 - b. Terracon has purchased Metcalf
 - c. Derenne inquired about the old Airport terminal documentation
7. Call to adjourn: Moved Munski, second Conlon. Motion carries. 7:12pm

Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, November 12th 2024 at 6:00pm**