

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

**Minutes**  
**February 11, 2025**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Moved Iseminger, second Munski. Motion carries.
  - a. Iseminger asked about the Water Treatment Plant and which voices might prevail given where the current options are currently.
    - i. Flemmer noted they are trying to determine what the market can bear whether it is townhomes, public amenity etc. and noted that our opinions matter less than the project viability and marketability. We believe it will be some combination of the options and will know more after the next meeting.
2. Section 106 Reviews: There were no Section 106 Reviews this month.
3. FY25 CLG Grant Application
  - a. Commission members considered the finalized application for the FY2025 grant that included the video for the Lost Neighborhood per the vote from the January meeting.
  - b. The Coordinator shared a preliminary copy of the application to the Mayor to allow him time for review. There were no questions and Mayor Bochenski has signed it. Slater asked about which funds pay the majority of our grant in light of the current news of Federal funding freezes. The Coordinator noted that the Preservation Leadership Forum will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 which may provide some further information.
  - c. Motion: Approve the FY25 CLG Grant Application and direct the Coordinator to submit to the SHSND by Friday, 14 February.
    - i. Moved Caraher, second Munski. Motion carries.
4. County Fairgrounds repair grant
  - a. SHSND has awarded a grant of \$33,000 to the Grand Forks Fair Board for the restoration of the Grandstand and has requested comments from GFHPC regarding their grant application and whether there are specific items we would like more information about.

- The Coordinator proposed two possible items - Please provide further details regarding the process of the restoration including plans or drawings and material examples that will achieve the success of the project. It is the understanding of our coordinator that the wall section in question is “hollow” and it will be helpful to understand how the work of reinforcing it with concrete blocks will be achieved.
- The application notes that, while not a part of the funding request, a structural beam will also be replaced. How does the structural reinforcement impact the scope of the masonry project and is it expected to be carried out prior to the wall restoration or after?
- Caraher asked a question regarding the structural component.
- Carlson asked about the masonry look from the grandstand interior and whether the wall would increase in thickness as well as the masonry cap. Does the concrete block reinforcement extend up to beneath the bleachers or all the way to the top?

5. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer: no report this month.

6. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher

a. Altru Hospital – Ad Monkeys

- i. Scott Telle from Ad Monkeys reached out regarding the eventual demolition of Altru Hospital and asked if it is a building we planned to conduct any documentation. We do not, in a formal sense, have a plan to document the hospital. He reached out to his contact at Altru and learned that the hospital is now closed to the public and is slated to be demolished in April. Altru has maintained a substantial collection of photographs and is willing to share a copy of their archive. The Coordinator will recommend that Altru share a copy of their archive with Special Collections.

1. Caraher noted that Delaware does a series of historic videos of everyday life. Perhaps this is an idea that we can build on for Grand Forks. Perhaps we can partner with Special Collections.

b. Talking Trails sites: the Coordinator will provide content for 6 of the top 10. The others can be considered at a later date.

- i. Paddle Wheel/Town Square/Murals
- ii. Sorlie Bridge (could be a connection to EGF)
- iii. The Obelisk
- iv. Badman Light Pillars
- v. Olive Ann (focus on the history of that location)
- vi. Empire
- vii. Loon Park (could incorporate city center mall)
- viii. Franklin on 4th (so much history)
- ix. Opera House
- x. St John's Block
- xi. GF Herald
- xii. City Hall

- xiii. Courthouse
  - xiv. Central High School
  - xv. Mural by the Police Department
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- c. Downtown Walking Tour: the Coordinator met with the DDA regarding their walking tour and has agreed to review their script and provide any supplemental historic facts where appropriate.
  - d. Roadside marker: the Coordinator visited with Albrecht's and also spoke with Ornamental Iron. Mr. Albrecht said he would not want to try to repair it for concern that it would be further damaged. Ornamental Iron did not respond to the follow up email and photographs. Grand Forks Welding and Manufacturing never responded.
    - i. The Coordinator also posted a query to social media looking for suggestions statewide, with no responses other than from the previous Coordinator.
    - ii. Leah Byzewski tagged Greg Vettel but he has not reached out with any information.
    - iii. UND's Art Department – Michael Conlon. Caraher was going to reach out to him directly.
    - iv. Iseminger suggested the State's Tourist Bureau.
    - v. Dave Badman - Flemmer will contact Dave on Thursday.
  - e. Drawdowns – FY23 – Q5 and FY24 – Q1 (donated labor forms)
    - i. The coordinator has completed FY23 Q5 drawdown. Commission members are asked to review and sign their Donated Labor Forms so that FY24 – Q1 can be completed.
  - f. Preservation Leadership Forum webinar: The Coordinator will attend a webinar tomorrow that will address the current Federal Government policies, and their grant and funding freeze.
  - g. GNRR story about the Metropolitan Opera – The Coordinator spoke with the editor of the regional GNRR magazine about the Opera House about a possible story in a forthcoming issue following the podcast interview on the Great American Folk Show.
  - h. Postcards – the first “samples” have been delivered. There is one correction to make before the Coordinator will place the larger order. Commission members are asked to scrutinize them and let the Coordinator know if other errors are found.
7. Other Business:
- a. Iseminger asked about the Coca Cola signs.
8. Move to adjourn 7:00 pm. Munski, second Carlson. Motion carries.

Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6:00pm**