

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

Minutes
August 12, 2025

Commissioners present: Chuck Flemmer, Bill Caraher, Doug Munski, Brian Carlson, Gordon Iseminger, Jacey Johnston,

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm.

1. Approval of minutes from July 8th, 2025.
 - a. Moved Iseminger, second Johnston. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews: No reviews this month.
3. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer:
 - a. WTP Redevelopment Steering Committee
 - i. The Chair reported about on a follow up session with the Steering Committee to discuss the process and next steps. They are going to set up times for Council members to come and visit to ask questions and learn what they need and would like to know about the project. Those times have not been set up yet but will happen in the next few weeks.
 - b. DDRB meeting on August 14th looking for a variance on the awning sign for the Halberstadt's signage on the building.
 - c. Commission vacancy: We have a vacancy for a member at large open. If any Commission members know of potential members please keep an eye out. It will be advertised through the City website.
4. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
 - a. FY25 Funding
 - i. The GFHPC has received notice of funding for FY25 which includes the ongoing work of a Preservation Plan. Our request for funding for video production was not approved. We also received the contract today to circulate for signature.
 - b. FY24 Audit due end of September:

- i. The coordinator provided a draft of the audit for any feedback or questions. The final audit will be provided in September.
- c. Chester Fritz Auditorium
 - i. The City's Building Safety department offered a recommendation for the safety solution for the CFA railings. They are currently 2 in too low for building safety code and the suggestion was to "cap" the railings with a horizontal bar that matches the rest of the metal railings which would raise it 1 – 1.5 in and that would be approved. We are awaiting renderings from UND of the various options proposed.
- d. Lost neighborhood historic context draft
 - i. Thank you to Dr. Iseminger for his edits. Unless there are any other edits, the historic context is ready to be shared with the State, the City and the public.
- e. Interpretive panels for the neighborhood – working with Pannier
 - i. The coordinator has been working with a company that creates outdoor signage. They have provided an estimate of \$1755.00 for two panels, two stands and the graphic design for the interpretive panels.
- f. Display case in Council Chambers
 - i. The display case has been installed and is now housing the three volumes of Loundsberry's *Early History of North Dakota*.
- g. Commissioner reappointments.
 - i. The four reappointments for August were approved by the Council. We have two more due in September and October.
- h. Polio/Public Health project
 - i. GF Public Health produced a great video that features two polio patients discussing their experience and Dr Jim Brosseau providing medical expertise. It is a very good message about vaccines and features the iron lung now housed at Heritage Days. The goal is to have it as a traveling exhibit for Polk County, GF County and the region as a public relations exhibit.
- i. Visit to Alpha Phi Pi sorority house
 - i. The coordinator was invited to tour the house, designed by Theodore Wells. The house is in excellent condition and retains many original features. We were also provided a set of the blueprints.
- j. Tour of City Hall historic artefacts for Franklin Club members

- i. The coordinator provided a tour of some of the historic artifacts in City Hall for approximately 8 members of the Franklin Club. They were interested in looking at the USS Maine bronze plaque, the building's dedication plaque, the safes and we also looked at some old photos, books and maps.
- k. ND250
 - i. The ND250 Commission launches Community Initiative Grants for various kinds of celebrations. Please share!
- 5. Other business:
 - a. Iseminger: asked about Phi Beta Pi house and the status of the sale.
 - b. Rezoning at 5th and Cambridge.
 - c. Barta's Belmont Service will host a grand opening on Saturday, August 16th from 9am to 5pm.
 - d. Munski – UND bookstore is moving to the new building on University Ave. What will happen to the Old Main architectural features? The Commission will inquire.
- 6. Move to adjourn 6:47 pm.,Munski moved, second Carlson . Motion carries.

Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, September 9th 2025 at 6:00pm**