

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

Minutes
September 23, 2025

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

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from August 12th, 2025.
 - a. Moved Iseminger, second Caraher. Motion carries.
 - i. Iseminger asked about the two Greek houses on campus but there is no update on those at the moment.
2. Section 106 Reviews:
 - a. Terracon:
 - i. 601 Princeton Street cellphone tower upgrade
 1. They are modifying an existing cellphone.
 2. NHPA, moved Swisher, second Carlson. Motion carries.
3. Vote to accept Lost Neighborhood Historic Context and submit to the State.
 - a. Commission members reviewed FY23 project, A Lost Neighborhood: An Early Immigrant Community in Grand Forks.
 - i. Motion: Move to accept and submit to the state
 - ii. Moved Caraher, second Derenne. Motion carries.
4. Vote to accept the Urban Renewal Survey and submit to the State.
 - a. Commission members reviewed FY23 project, Urban Renewal Survey.
 - b. Motion: Move to accept and submit to the state
 - c. Moved Conlon, second Caraher. Motion carries
 - i. Caraher asked whether there are any comparanda for other similarly sized cities in the region or across the country.
5. Vote to accept the CLG audit and submit to the State

- a. Commission members reviewed FY23 project, the CLG audit.
 - b. Motion: Move to accept and submit to the state
 - c. Moved Swisher, second Derenne. Motion carries.
6. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer:
- a. Flemmer provided a reminder about vacancy reminder for Commission – Member-at-Large
 - b. Caraher mentioned that there might be some interested people at the Chester Fritz Library.
7. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
- a. Immigrant Neighborhood interpretive panels proof
 - i. The coordinator shared the proof of the interpretive panel. There will be a minor addition to credit Special Collections for some of the photos.
 - b. Old Science Building architectural features
 - i. The coordinator reached out to UND to ask about the plan for the historic architectural features that were salvaged and installed in the bookstore will remain in place as the purpose of the building changes from the bookstore to Biomedical Engineering. UND feels the columns and pediment will provide a good backdrop of a public event and circulation space.
 - c. Chester Fritz Auditorium railing
 - i. UND has received an estimate from Ornamental Iron and will seek funding from leadership to go ahead with one of the options that were proposed by our office, thanks to Brian for finding a good solution. The coordinator also shared this with SHPO and received a favorable response. The balcony will also be painted. The project will likely take place in the Spring.
 - d. EDC step removed for 4th Street construction
 - i. During the reconstruction of 4th Street the city removed the step from outside the Economic Development Corporation. Before it is disposed, the coordinator asked if we could find another purpose/building that might make use of it. If not, it will go to landfill.
 - ii. The coordinator will ask the County Historical Society
 - e. Ursuline's-St Bernards
 - i. The coordinator has been providing some research assistance to a community member on the topic of the Ursuline Sisters in Grand Forks.
 - f. Ken Dawes – GF Churches

- i. Dr Ken Dawes has donated his research on Grand Forks churches to the Commission. This will be helpful in our preservation planning project.
- g. Franklin Club visit to City Hall
 - i. Several members of the Franklin Club visited City Hall last month for a tour and to discuss history topics about Grand Forks.
- h. ND250 grants
 - i. A reminder that the State has grants up to \$10,000 for events or activities associated with the 250th Anniversary of the U.S.
- i. Staff Report
 - i. Reappointments for Conlon and Johnston went to the Committee of the Whole on Monday and will be voted on at the Council meeting on Monday, September 29th.
- j. End FY23 reconciliation and drawdown
 - i. The coordinator is working on the final drawdown for FY23. Please advise of any additional hours donated while reviewing reports. The forms will be ready for signatures at the October meeting.
- 8. Other business:
 - a. RRVCA
 - b. University Park – asked about the plaque. We will check with Parks District.
- 9. Move to adjourn 6:45 pm., moved Munski, second Derenne. Motion carries.

Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, November 18th 2025 at 6:00pm?**