

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

Minutes
February 10th, 2026

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

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from January 13th, 2025.
 - a. Moved Caraher, second Iseminger. Motion carries.
 - b. Iseminger asked about the Barber nomination.
 - c. Iseminger also asked about the Border Patrol building, and the Police Station and the old Social Security Building.

2. Section 106 Reviews:
 - a. MN DOT - SP 119-113-008, Bridge 60506 Rehabilitation. (The Point Bridge, constructed 1966-67).
 - i. “The scope of work includes replacement of expansion and swivel joints, repairing damaged concrete curbing, partial depth repairs to concrete decking, mill and overlay of the concrete bridge deck, painting of handrails, miscellaneous painting of steel beams, and bridge approach work. Studies associated with the design work (geotechnical analysis) will determine if the area of soil settlement in the easternmost project area (MN) will require excavation and soil correction work. No tree removals are anticipated.”
 - ii. MN DOT is looking for input on the following
 1. Historic properties/locally designated properties within the project APE/construction limits, and
 2. The proposed project APE and project scope.
 - iii. Iseminger asked about the scope and any impact on the Water Intake Building. The scope of work does not extend beyond the flood wall. Flemmer suggested we look into the original color of the paint and whether they ought to maintain the original architect’s design.
 1. The coordinator will check as to whether or not it won an award.
 - iv. Carlson also noted that there is a dedication plaque and we should make sure it is maintained.

- v. Motion: No Adverse Effect to the work on the Point Bridge provided the paint questions are address and the dedication plaque is maintained. Moved Caraher, second Johnston . Motion carries.

b. Review and vote on FY2026 CLG Grant Application to submit to SHPO

- i. The coordinator prepared and circulated the draft application together with a comprehensive budget and a budget spreadsheet.
- ii. The coordinator reached out to SHPO for a Cultural Review on Calvary Lutheran Church, and that report was circulated yesterday. There was discussion regarding the Criteria, and the coordinator will make that update in the narrative.
- iii. Iseminger asked whether SHPO has access to more information about the building than we might have.
- iv. Flemmer also noted the need to address the coordinator's salary and requested the Commission consider a small hourly raise of 10% to bring the rate to \$27.50/hr. This adjustment moves the hourly rate a little closer to what is considered to be market rate.
 - 1. Moved Johnston, second Munski. Abstained – W. Caraher. Motion carries.
- v. Motion to approve theFY26 CLG grant application with amendments. Moved Munski, second Johnston. Motion carries.

3. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer:

- i. Commissioner – Member-at-Large interviews: The Chair and coordinator interviewed three candidates for the open position. All three candidates were well qualified and worthy of appointment.
- ii. Curt Hanson, Department Head of Special Collections at UND was recommended to fill this role and the others will be encouraged to remain in the pool for any future openings. The coordinator is contacting the three interviewees and our recommendation will be forwarded to the Mayor for his review. It will then go to City Council for approval.

4. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher

- i. BNSF Lunchroom: The coordinator is in communication with the contact within the team that manages the BNSF real estate and facilities. While they are open to interested parties contacting them regarding acquisition, we have asked for more specific information such as cost, process for acquisition, timeframe and condition so we can reach out to prospective parties.

- ii. Drawdowns sent to SHPO: the coordinator submitted two drawdowns to SHPO: Q5 of FY24 and Q1 of FY25.
- iii. Sertoma Club invitation to speak - the HPC was invited to speak to the Sertoma Club about what we do. That presentation will be on Tuesday, March 17th.
- iv. Knutson Printing - the building was severely damaged by the fire that occurred
- v. Flood gear: City staff found items of flood recovery gear when cleaning out a room. It was offered to the Myra but they have similar items. If Commissioners have ideas for how these might be used or saved please let the coordinator know. The coordinator will contact NDArchives and then the Smithsonian.
- vi. Urban Renewal – SHPO shared a new nationwide Multiple Property Documentation Form for Urban Renewal that was recently accepted to the National Register. It includes the history and context of the federal program and provides guidance for evaluating eligibility of properties built between 1949 and 1974.
- vii. Babcock – Agatha Frisby is almost finished her draft and asked if any of our commissioners would like to review the draft. Please advise the coordinator if you would like a copy. It is expected to be ready at the end of the month.
 - 1. Munski suggest Stan Ahler, and Fred Schneider for institutional knowledge. Caraher suggested Elwyn Chandler’s book might also have information. The coordinator will follow up on the book.

b. Other business:

- i. Flemmer noted that the old clinic on University Ave that is now the Salvation Army building is worth taking a look at and would like to keep it on the radar.
- ii. Caraher asked Dr. Munski about Gamble Hall and whether the fact that Psychology is scheduled to move in there indicates a new life for the building Dr. Munski asked whether we have been invited to comment on the 10 year master plan for UND.
- iii. Greek housing master plan – Dr. Munski is waiting on a link to share.
- iv. Iseminger asked about incentives for home owners.

5. Move to adjourn 7:05pm, moved Munski, second Conlon. Motion carries.

Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 6:00pm**