

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

Minutes
March 10th, 2026

Commissioners present: Chuck Flemmer, Gordon Iseminger, Judy Swisher, Curt Hanson, Doug Munski, Jacey Johnston

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

1. Welcome to Curt Hanson, new Member-at-Large
2. Approval of minutes from February 10th meeting.
 - a. Moved Iseminger, second Johnston. Motion carries.
 - i. Iseminger asked about the Point Bridge, the Lunch Room and asked whether Dr Munski about Gamble Hall.
 1. Dr. Munski noted that Gamble will be temporarily refurbished to accommodate people from Columbia Hall, and those in Gamble will move to Twamley.
3. Section 106 Reviews: Flemmer gave an explanation of Section 106 review for the benefit of new member, Curt Hanson.
4. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
5. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
 - a. Central H.S.: Principal Jon Strandell reached out to inquire about getting the exterior of the school cleaned of the black growth. The coordinator gave the names of two architects who have worked on local historic buildings who may be able to recommend potential contractors. We also did some research on potential grants that might be available. NDSHPO does not have any grants available at the current time, but the National Trust provided a couple of possibilities.
 - b. Newman House: the coordinator spoke with Father Chris regarding the future of the House who noted that they have had difficulty getting enough girls to live in the house. He also noted that the house will go up for sale at the end of the school year and that there has been

some interest from other sororities. The coordinator is planning to visit the house over Spring break to take some photos.

- c. Flood gear: the coordinator reached out to the ND State Museum to offer the 1997 flood clothing. It will be considered at their next Museum collections committee meeting and if accepted we will ship the items to Bismarck.
 - d. Gate City HIPP. The City is once again participating the program supported by Gate City Bank that provides up to \$20 million in low interest loans for Grand Forks residents for home improvements. Planning will route applications for those in historic districts so we can reach out regarding projects.
 - e. Point Bridge – MNDOT project: the coordinator responded to MNDOT with our finding of No Adverse Effect. It was then sent to NDSHPO for comment and they also returned a determination of No Adverse Effect.
 - i. Gordon asked about whether it received an award. No information has been found at this time.
 - f. UND Master Campus Plan: the coordinator reached out to Les Bjore who is the University Architect.
 - i. UND has been in the planning phase for a few months, mostly gathering data that the design team consultant has requested. They will be entering the 3rd phase soon where we will take this data and apply it to various scenarios. Les noted that they do not have any physical planning documents to share at this time but will in the not-too-distant future. He has been working on a Historic Preservation Framework Plan for all buildings on campus that have reached a 40 year life, and noted he is about 50% complete. The coordinator has asked to meet when convenient.
 - g. Babcock Documentation Review: the coordinator shared Agatha Frisby's draft documentation report of Babcock. If you choose to review please send any comments or edits to the coordinator by next Tuesday.
 - i. Balustrades, staircase, bricks – Munski
 - ii. Iseminger – one of the few remaining historic buildings remaining on campus and noted the report expressed it could have been saved during previous administrations, but that the condition was not kept up so it became too insurmountable.
6. Other business:

- a. County Historical Society and Historic Preservation Commission – Pam Knutson is going to write a story to outline the differences between the two organizations. Flemmer noted that the County Commission meeting mixed up the two agencies. There was a motion to remove their mill levy and effectively defund the Historical Society. There is clearly confusion about who does what.
 - i. The coordinator will set up something with the Historical Society.
 - b. University Park flood plaque – an ongoing mystery as to what happened to the plaque that was once located on 6th Ave at the north end of the walking path.
 - c. Greek Housing: Munski noted they had consultants come in for planning for the Greek community, addressed issues for fundraising and construction for new houses. There appears to be a desire to build new houses in the same spot. The consultant was one of the firms that manage Greek houses and none of them appear to be doing anything in terms of maintenance. The idea is to create two Greek housing rows – University Ave and Princeton Street
 - d. Spectra Health CDBG application and site inspection to take photos.
 - e. Iseminger asked about the area on the west side of Hamline regarding the property built on the open lot.
7. Call to adjourn: Moved Johnston, second Swisher. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 6:00pm**