

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

Minutes
May 12th, 2026

Commissioners present: Chuck Flemmer, Doug Munski, Judy Swisher, Brian Carlson, Nicole Derenne.

Guest: Sierra Johnson

Visitor: Almaz Diamond

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm. Meeting as the Committee of the Whole to fulfill business in June.

1. Approval of minutes from April 21st meeting.
 - a. Moved Swisher, second Carlson.
 - i. Motion carries
2. Section 106 Reviews:
 - i. Northland Mission – Sierra Johnson, Planning
 1. Change to project scope for previous Section 106 review.
 2. Munski asked about the timeframe for repairing the foundation given that this project has changed.
 3. Johnson noted that the structural engineer indicated that there is still integrity in the foundation wall.
 4. Motion: NAE Move Swisher, second Munski.
 5. Swisher asked about the cost. Original budget was \$85k and while it isn't yet confirmed it is estimated to be in the same ballpark.
 6. Johnson also noted that there is an ER underway around the building and those tests are not yet ready.
 7. Motion carries.
3. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
 - a. No report for May.

- b. Swisher asked about the status of the Artisan project. It will take a while before it is finished and open.
- 4. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
 - a. FY26 CLG grant
 - i. The State Historic Preservation Office has notified us that our FY26 grant application has been approved with an amendment. They plan to move \$1000 from the FY26 budget to the FY24 budget for travel/conference.
 - b. U. Park Walking Tour project
 - i. The University Park Neighborhood walking tour print brochure is still under construction. Barb Knipe is also interested in adding an audio component and has spoken with the EGF Library about their audio tour to get some ideas. She is also interested in linking to some of our Midcentury Housing research for architectural descriptions so we will be working on a solution that achieves what they would like within the capabilities of our website. Audio may present a challenge.
 - c. Belmont Road reconstruction
 - i. The Engineering Dept is planning a Fall meeting with residents to discuss the possibility of reconstruction and widening of Belmont Rd from 5th Street to possibly 13th Ave. This would impact the mature trees along Belmont and would impact the historic character of the neighborhood. The coordinator asked that the city arborist be consulted to determine whether trees can be saved or avoided. The chair also asked that the project approach the reconstruction of Belmont with the goal of saving the trees as a priority.
 - ii. Flemmer reinforced the historic integrity of the trees. The reasons for changes are legitimate for safety etc., and the corner near the school. He reminded Engineering of Zimney's report regarding better roads = increased speed. Flemmer also asked about the proposed roundabout near the school but Engineering feels like it is more likely that bump outs will be a better solution.
 - iii. The coordinator plans to reach out to the State to seek advice.
 - iv. Swisher also noted that trees along that stretch often have the mark of demolition for diseases.
 - v. Flemmer also noted the Cathedral District.
 - d. GFPD – book and files

- i. We have received a donation of books from the Police Department as well as a copy of Brian Samson's book. Please let the coordinator know if you would like to borrow the book.
 - e. Survey distribution
 - i. The coordinator asked for any final comments before the survey goes out to the public.
 - f. DeRemer House/George B. Clifford House
 - i. The coordinator met with prospective home owners interested in these properties and who had a number of questions. Both homes are individually listed to the National Register. The coordinator has also reached out to the realtor for the George Clifford House to ask for an opportunity to do a walk through while it is still on the market.
 - g. Point Bridge rehab project delayed until 2027
 - i. The project is delayed due to the need for some materials.
 - h. Expiring/Renewing Commissioner terms
 - i. Four commissioners have expiring terms on August 1st. The coordinator will be reaching out to those members to ask whether there is interest in renewing.
 - i. Lost Neighborhood interpretive panels installation will likely happen later this week.
 - i. Munski asked about the height of the new panels given that the other panels on N. 3rd Street.
 - j. Historic Preservation Month social media
 - i. The post about the President's House on campus has garnered a huge number of reactions, shares, and new follows. The coordinator will try to take advantage of the new interest.
 - k. GF Historic App
5. Other business:
- a. Mayors Choice Award – Greg Vettel.
 - b. Carlson mentioned BHO
 - c. Almaz asked about grants
6. Call to adjourn: Moved Munski, second Swisher. Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.
- Upcoming meetings: **Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 6:00pm**