

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

Minutes
June 9th, 2026

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

Guest: Sierra Johnson, John Schlosser

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

1. Motion to approve the actions of the Committee of the Whole, May 12th.
 - a. Moved Swisher, second Carlson. Motion carries.
2. Approval of minutes from May 12th meeting.
 - a. Moved Derenne, second Munski. Motion carries.
 - i. Iseminger asked about trees on Belmont
 - ii. Iseminger asked about the Cathedral District.
 - iii. Iseminger asked about the mural.
3. Section 106 Reviews:
 - i. Spectra Health – Sierra Johnson, Planning
 1. Change to project scope for previous Section 106 review to include a new HVAC system. The funding will be left over money from the COVID grant.
 2. Motion for NAE moved Swisher, second Derenne.
 3. The size is estimated to be about the same.
4. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
 - a. No report for May.
5. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
 - a. Half Brothers mural
 - i. The coordinator approved the request for Half Brothers to paint a mural on the alley side of their building. The surface is not original but is concrete block and has been previously painted. It is not an original surface.

- ii. Johnson noted that staff does not approve the artwork/ content but the mural request met all of the requirements.
 - iii. Flemmer asked about the former request about an outdoor freezer.
 - iv. Derenne noted the ND Punk style.
 - v. Iseminger asked for clarification about whether murals or signs could be applied directly to the building.
- b. May Social Media
 - i. Historic Preservation Month brought a lot of new followers. We increased our followers by 372 which was a 48.1% increase to a total of 1, 146.
 - ii. Engagement was substantially increased and brought approximately 3, 400 reactions and more than 470 comments across 20 posts. The most popular posts were those about the historic districts, the historic President's House and the image of the Wheeler House from the 1893 plat book.
 - iii. Views were up 19, 200 % from the previous month.
 - iv. Additionally, yesterday we posted about The Kegs being open for the season and so far it has more than 73,000 views, more than 800 reactions, 65 comments and 150 shares. It also garnered more followers and we now have more than 1, 230 followers. These numbers do seem inflated so more analysis is needed.
- c. GF Historic App
 - i. Greenwood Online has moved our mobile app to our website. The url is www.gfpreservation.com/app. We did several minor updates and it is now functional.
- d. Historic neighborhood mature trees
 - i. The coordinator has reached out to a couple of people with experience of saving mature trees. One contact, who was very generous with her time, gave the historic background on the project in Bismarck's Cathedral District in the late 1970s. The coordinator also received copies of several presentations regarding walkability, safety, traffic speeds and the creation of boundaries that trees provide for pedestrians.
 - ii. John is a member of Strong Towns which is centered around creating a safe space.
- e. Valley Senior Living
 - i. We collaborated on a project with Valley Senior Living and Mike Bibow from AE2S to provide several historic photos of the Lincoln Park/Lanark Ave area. VSL worked

with an artist who enhanced the photos with selective colorizing with textured paint. The project looks wonderful and we're told that the residents have responded very well to the historic images.

- ii. VSL may have other projects where they will seek our collaboration.
- f. Survey results to date
 - i. The survey has been live since June 1st and will continue until June 15th. As of this afternoon, there are 49 responses. A summary of results is included in this meeting's packet.
- g. UND Master Campus Plan workshop – June 23rd & 24th.
 - i. The coordinator will be meeting with Les Bjore on Thursday to review the campus preservation plan and is planning to attend the master campus plan meeting on June 23rd.
- h. 321 Belmont – Gospel Outreach Ministries building
 - i. The church is making arrangements to repair the front steps of the building. The coordinator is also putting together some grant recommendations for the interior and the rest of the building.
- i. FY26 Grant Contract
 - i. SHPO has sent the FY26 grant confirmation for the Mayor's signature. The coordinator is required to provide a letter of support from Calvary Lutheran Church leadership. Now that we have the contract, we can proceed with setting up FY26.
- j. Babcock mitigation meeting
 - i. The coordinator has a scheduled Zoom meeting on Wednesday to review the mitigation requirements and learn more about the plans from the University with regard to demolition and interpretation. Dr. Munski is also invited to the meeting.
 - ii. Munski's met with Alumni and Foundation Association regarding the pollinator garden. Economic geology regarding the Cable Pottery. Finding ways to provide a healing space, reconciliation and education. Needs community support. Jacobean architectural style arches – considering ways to preserve and reuse them in the post mitigation design.
- 6. Other business:
 - a. GFH Reporting Intern is putting together an interactive activity. The prompt is "What remnants of Grand Forks landmarks or businesses past can still be spotted around town, if

- you know where to look? Let's reach out to some local historians and put together some kind of "ghost sign" scavenger hunt. They are looking for about 7 suggestions.
- b. Commissioners provided the following suggestions: McDonalds Clothing, Bronze Boot, Uptown Bowling, Holt's printing, Bob's Gas, J.C. Penny, Magellan, Westward Ho. Viet's Hotel. Derenne also asked about a liquor store with a similar sounding name to Derenne, and Munski noted it is now Fire Audiology on Washington Street.
 - c. Iseminger asked about Greek Houses. Flemmer noted that the Newman House isn't yet on the market, Pi Beta Phi is pending. We plan to meet with the Greek Life coordinator.
 - d. Munski asked about Great Northern Luncheon Room. There is no new information regarding BNSF selling the building.
7. Call to adjourn: Moved Swisher, second Munski. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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