

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

Minutes
July 9th, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.

1. Approval of minutes from May 14th, 2024. Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.
2. Section 106 Reviews:
 - a. 1517 6th Ave N: Storm sash on basement window, smoke and c/o alarms on all floors, new dryer vent and weather strip the back door. Administratively approved – NHPA.
 - b. NDDOT project for streetscape reconstruction on N. 4th Street from 1st Ave to 2nd Ave, approved by SHPO with No Adverse Effect
3. Chair Report: Chuck Flemmer
 - a. DDRB meeting – May 16th meeting regarding signage on Franklin on 4th.
 - i. The DDRB committee considered an appeal to the Multi-Story Building Signage Requirements & Projecting Measurement Standards for Franklin on 4th development. The request is for the larger signage for Franklin and for the Northridge sign on the north side of the building and both were approved. A different plan will be made for retail stores.
 - ii. Swisher asked about condos vs rentals, and whether there is any low-income housing. Flemmer noted that they did not get the appropriate loans for low-income housing. Swisher also asked about the apartments at the Beacon and what discussions are going on about housing.
 - iii. Carlson noted that vacancy rates might be higher elsewhere but downtown tends to remain well occupied.
 - b. Spectra Health is redoing the parking area and canopy at the front of the building. The city is going to assist with the street portion.

- i. Swisher asked whether there will be more parking. Flemmer noted likely not but remains to be seen.
 - c. Steering Committee for old Water Treatment Plant redevelopment. Both the chair and the coordinator have been appointed to the Steering Committee. The first meeting is next Tuesday morning with the consultant, Development Strategies from St Louis. The plan is to provide a plan for how to go about redevelopment. The initial goal is likely going to be to develop a scope of work for an RFP.
 - i. The committee members will be liaisons to a variety of constituencies as the plans begin to take shape.
 - ii. Carlson asked the extent of the redevelopment zone and whether it extends beyond the Water Treatment facility. Flemmer noted that it will likely include the lots on which two historic houses sit. There may be opportunity for us to consider whether the city can relocate them as this process unfolds.
- 4. Coordinator Report: Susan Caraher
 - a. Commissioner term renewals: Terms were expiring for four commission members, all of who agreed to request a renewal. The report was submitted and approved at the Council meeting on July 1st.
 - b. Belmont reconstruction: some residents have complained to their council member that Belmont is too narrow and cars parked on the street are at risk of damage. Engineering Department reached out to ask about widening the road which would result in the removal of trees. The coordinator advised the importance of the streetscape in a historic district and that removal would impact property values. Concern for children around Phoenix or other locations along Belmont would not necessarily be alleviated but rather widening and improving the road has the potential to result in more dangerous, faster speeds along that stretch. The Engineering Department is reconsidering a full reconstruction of Belmont to another mill and overlay which will last another decade or so. During that time, it is possible that the trees will take care of themselves through disease and damage.
 - i. All other streets around the Near Southside are receiving mill and overlay this summer, as well as a number of new ADA sidewalk access.

- c. New Council members: the coordinator has provided the two new council members with information about the GFHPC and offered them each a tour of historic Grand Forks.
 - d. 150th budget reallocation request. Our grant included \$2000 for activities associated with the 150th anniversary that the City has since postponed. The coordinator would like to request the approval of the Commission to request a reallocation of those funds for Baukol Historic District street signs and to print photos for public display in City Hall and to have on file for other occasions including future celebrations.
 - i. Flemmer made the motion to move the line item for this \$2000 to request to reallocate the funds for these purposes. Moved Slater, second Swisher. Motion carries.
 - e. Drawdown – Donated Labor Forms
5. Other business:
- a. Griggs Award – Dr. Munski would like to nominate Greg Vettel.
 - i. Motion: nominate Greg Vettel for the Griggs Award for the 2024 Griggs Award for his work in preservation, particularly with the Veterans Memorial and Grand Forks County Historical Society.
 - 1. Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.
 - 2. The coordinator asked Dr Munski for assistance with the verbiage for when the Mayor announces the award. The coordinator will arrange for his name plate to be engraved.
 - b. September meeting: The coordinator will be out of the office from August 18th to September 9th. Request to move our September 10th meeting to September 17th.
 - i. Flemmer: Motion to move September meeting from the 10th to the 17th. Moved Swisher, second Derenne. Motion carries.
 - c. Just an FYI to keep an eye out for the story about historic statues in this weekend's Grand Forks Herald.
6. Call to adjourn at 6:45pm: Moved Munski, second Derenne. Motion carries.

Next meeting is 6 pm, August 13th, 2024.