

**BISMARCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2021**

The Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission met on March 17, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City-County Office Building, 221 North 5th Street. Due to ongoing public health concerns related to COVID-19, the meeting was held via Zoom. Chair Sakariassen presided remotely.

Commissioners present were Steve Bakken, Walt Bailey, Blake Dinkins, Calvin Grinnell, Tory Jackson, Beth Nodland and Amy Sakariassen.

Staff members present were Sandra Bogaczyk – Office Assistant II, Jannelle Combs – City Attorney, Ben Ehreth – Community Development Director, Will Hutchings – Planner and Kim Lee – Planning Manager.

Guest present was Aaron Barth - Executive Director, Northern Plains National Heritage Area.

MINUTES

Chair Sakariassen called for consideration of the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Bakken to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and with Commissioners Bakken, Bailey, Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson, Nodland and Sakariassen voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Sakariassen asked if there were any public comments. There being no public input Chair Sakariassen resumed the meeting.

SECTION 106 REVIEW – NDDOT PROJECT

Chair Sakariassen asked Commission members to consider the submitted documentation for Section 106 review of the proposed NDDOT projects to be located along portions of State Street and complete the attached declaration of your findings for the State Historic Preservation Office.

Commissioner Bailey suggested an amendment to rephrase the declaration to reflect that there are not currently any known cultural resources in the project area. Commissioner Bakken seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jackson asked if the motion properly addresses the format of the form. Mr. Hutchings stated that the form is an internal creation which could be rewritten to reflect the wishes of Commission members.

Commissioner Nodland stated that she should be removed from voting due to her relationship with the project. Chair Sakariassen stated that Commissioner Nodland is welcome to clarify arguments. Commissioner Nodland noted that the Commission might not want to be adding language to the established Section 106 process.

Chair Sakariassen stated that the already existing phrasing, which states that the results of the Class 1 literature review constitutes a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources, makes her feel comfortable with that language in regards to future possible findings and said that it was fairly standard language in such documents she has worked with.

Commissioner Bakken asked for clarification about possibly editing the Section 106 document. Mr. Hutchings stated that it is an internal created document that is used for communicating with the State regarding any specific concerns with a Section 106 project. Mr. Hutchings stated that Commissioner Bailey's motion could be altered to remove the suggested language yet still note his concerns.

Commissioner Jackson stated that he did not think the document needed to be amended.

Commissioner Bailey rescinded his original motion. Commissioner Bakken concurred regarding his second.

Chair Sakariassen asked if there was anyone opposed to rescinding the motion. Hearing none she resumed the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson to agree with the NDDOT determination of No Historic Properties Affected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dinkins and with Commissioners Bakken, Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson and Sakariassen voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved. Commissioner Bailey opposed the motion. Commissioner Nodland abstained.

PRESENTATION: NORTHERN PLAINS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA – AARON BARTH

Mr. Barth, Executive Director of Northern Plains Heritage Area, stated the purpose of his organization and provided some history of relationships linking heritage tourism as an economic engine citing examples of local history and its ties with the Missouri River. He argued that championing heritage is relative to developing tourism and the local economy.

Mr. Barth listed goals specific to the Historic Preservation Commission including heritage trails, interpretative guides and arts and culture guides and described funding opportunities and restrictions.

Chair Sakariassen stated that there is an exciting range of opportunities to explore.

Commissioner Nodland asked Mr. Barth to describe the new facility being built at the Missouri River Landing. Mr. Barth described the project and stated that late June is the target date for completion.

A discussion about various past projects, funding and archeological site work including some descriptive videos which Chair Sakariassen thought might inspire new partner projects were discussed. Chair Sakariassen asked Mr. Barth and he agreed to forward suggested websites to staff for Commission members to consider.

Mr. Barth and Chair Sakariassen agreed it would be beneficial for both groups to continue the association between their organizations and both looked forward to future shared projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

NOTICE OF 2021 HPF GRANT AWARD

Mr. Hutchings stated that he was pleased to report that on March 9th he received notice that the 2021 HPF Grant Award was funded in the amount of \$28,750 to fund interpretive historic markers, the production of walking tour maps and fund anticipated costs for the National Register nomination for Highland Acres. He stated that a contract has yet to be executed.

Commissioner Nodland asked that a thank you letter be sent to the HPF board. Mr. Hutchings mentioned his expectation to send one.

UPDATE ON PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION REGARDING BNSF BRIDGE

Mr. Hutchings stated that there were two items HPC recommended to the City Commission for approval. One was the items within the memorandum of agreement and the priorities HPC members pre-ranked and voted to approve as a group ranking. Mr. Hutchings stated that the City Commission approved the MOA with the contingency preserving the city's infrastructure including the water intake and water treatment plant and surrounding environment, bank stabilization and assuring the City is not held financially responsible with anything moving forward with the bridge. The second item, he continued, was the request of the Friends of the Rail Bridge (FORB) to enter into a public-private partnership with the City to offer any assistance allowable within the City's ordinance related to historic preservation powers and duties. FORB furthermore requested a partnership with the City to facilitate registration of the BNSF bridge as a national historic place, along with other designations, once the bridge's ownership would be transferred. The City Commission denied that request.

Chair Sakariassen thanked Mr. Ehreth for his presentation of the request to City Commission. She also stated that she would like to not see further denigration of citizens stating their

request to a public commission in good faith. She stated that she received several phone calls requesting the same. She stated that all citizens who make public requests should be treated with respect.

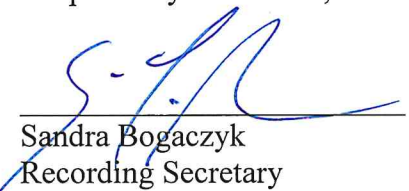
Chair Sakariassen asked if there are any remaining comments before adjournment.

Mr. Hutchings stated that he would like to inform all Commissioners present that there is an upcoming statewide CLG conference which is an opportunity to receive training available for all CLG communities. It will be held on-line in multiple events over the course of four days at 1.5-hour intervals starting at 10am. He stated that he has forwarded the link to register. The first date will be March 29, 2021. He asked that if commissioners plan to attend that they inform him so that if more than three members plan to attend then he can make a public announcement that a meeting is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

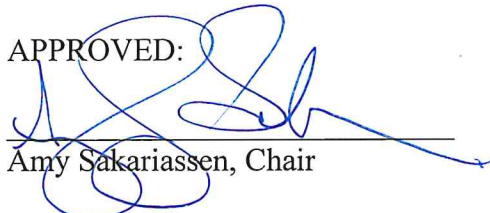
There being no further business, Chair Sakariassen declared the meeting of the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 4:19 p.m. to meet again on April 21, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Bogaczyk
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Amy Sakariassen, Chair