

BISMARCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2021

The Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission met on August 18, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City-County Office Building, 221 North 5th Street. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom. Vice-Chair Nodland acted as Chair since Commissioner Sakariassen was participating remotely and having technical difficulties.

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

Commissioner Steve Bakken was not present.

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

Guests present were Paul Demers – Archeologist, North Dakota Department of Transportation, Lorna Meidinger – Historic Preservation Specialist, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

MINUTES

Mr. Hutchings stated that there is an error on the agenda misstating that the Planning and Zoning Commission minutes approval will be considered. It should be stated that the Historic Preservation Commission minutes approval will be considered.

Vice-Chair Nodland called for consideration of the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Bailey to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and with Commissioners Bailey, Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson, Sakariassen and Vice-Chair Nodland voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice-Chair Nodland asked if there were any public comments.

There being no public input Vice-Chair Nodland resumed the meeting.

SECTION 106 REVIEW
BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY – LIGHTING / TURN LANE ADDITION

Mr. Hutchings stated that the City of Bismarck has received a Section 106 Review request from the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) for a proposed roadway project in east Bismarck and provided maps and images of the project. The proposed project would consist of the construction of a southbound right turn lane into the ND Game & Fish Complex from Bismarck Expressway and provide lighting along the project corridor.

Mr. Bailey stated that NDDOT has, in other projects, added language which assures any findings are dealt with to have no adverse effect and suggested adding verbiage to future agreements.

Ms. Sakariassen concurred that no historical findings are affected.

Vice-Chair Nodland welcomed Mr. Demers to present for NDDOT.

Mr. Demers described how NDDOT examines projects and determines the appropriate course of action by assessing the likelihood of remains to be found. He stated that the Department of Transportation feels it is important to recognize and address any archeologic findings. He stated that Bismarck Expressway had an extremely low probability of finding artifacts. Mr. Demers stated that existing regulations instruct contractors what to do when artifacts are found which includes involving SHPO and DOT cultural managers to look at findings.

Mr. Bailey agreed to the declaration as written.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Sakariassen to approve the Section 106 declaration for the proposed Bismarck Expressway – Lighting and Turn Lane Addition project, NDDOT Project #: 1-810(030)004, as written with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and with Commissioners Bailey, Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson, Sakariassen and Vice-Chair Nodland voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

DOWNTOWN BISMARCK – STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Hutchings stated that the City of Bismarck has received a Section 106 Review request from the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) for a proposed street improvement project in downtown Bismarck. The proposed project is located in the area bounded by North 6th Street from East Thayer Avenue to East Main Avenue; along East Thayer Avenue from North 3rd Street to North 6th Street and East Broadway Avenue from North 4th to North 6th Street. It would consist of six activities as documented in the agenda packet.

Mr. Bailey asked for the rationale behind constructing curb extensions. Mr. Hutchings explained the pedestrian and motorist safety motives.

Vice-Chair Nodland added that the curb extensions in small river towns along the Missouri look nice.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Dinkins to approve the Section 106 declaration for the proposed street improvement project as written, with a finding of No Adverse Affect and the proposed associated Cultural Resource Discovery Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sakariassen and with Commissioners Bailey, Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson, Sakariassen and Vice-Chair Nodland voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

HIGHLAND ACRES NHRP NOMINATION CONSULTANT SELECTION

Mr. Hutchings stated that a selection committee met Tuesday, August 17, 2021 to review, rank and score the written proposals received in response to the request for proposals (RFP) for the Highland Acres National Register of Historic Places Nomination. Mr. Hutchings presented the final scores of the proposals.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Dinkins to approve Metcalf Archeologic Consultants Inc., enter negotiations for contract, and forward to the City Commission for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and with Commissioners Bailey, Dinkins, Grinnell, Jackson, Sakariassen and Vice-Chair Nodland voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND ADVISORY RECOMMENDATION – WATERMAIN AND CURB BARS

Staff and Commissioners discussed the historical merit of preserving the galvanized steel corner curb bars within the Cathedral Area Historic District. The so called 'buggy guards' were not listed on the 2020 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review for a current watermain and utilities project replacing aged cast-iron watermains and lead service lines, and have not been previously documented in a site survey form as in the National Register of Historic Places nominations. The Historic Preservation Commission is asked to review the project in the Cathedral Area Historic District, potential impacts to the curb guards as an historic resource, and advised SHPO to provide guidance to the City Engineer how to proceed in preserving the remaining guards found in a few areas along Mandan Street and West B Avenue. A recently submitted and accepted North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey states that the guards demonstrate the shift from horse-drawn transportation and make a critical contribution to the district's character and historic significance and should be preserved. Mr. Hutchings stated that the City Engineer has confirmed with the project manager that they should be able to avoid impacting any of the rail curb but are seeking Historic Preservation Commission and SHPO guidance if the conditions were to exist.

Ms. Sakariassen stated that the curbs can be saved and cast in newly repaired curbs to prevent loss.

Mr. Jackson stated that he would like to see if the City is unable to repair that they should replace them.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was concerned with the waning of materials which show Bismarck's history and agreed with Mr. Sakariassen and Mr. Jackson's suggestions.

Mr. Demers stated that replacement of the curbs in concrete is aligned with federal preservation and compliance.

Vice-Chair Nodland asked that if a curb cannot be preserved that the Historic Preservation Commission be notified. She asked that pieces be salvaged for possible display purposes.

DISCUSSION ON THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S INVOLVEMENT IN SESQUICENTENNIAL PLANNING

Mr. Hutchings stated that several actions are in the process of being developed to support the Bismarck sesquicentennial. He added that Bismarck is scheduled to host the ND Certified Local Government Conference in 2022. Project funding resources should be determined. No community-wide high level project leaders have been revealed at this time so Mr. Hutchings asked the Commissioners which projects they wanted to lead or support or request of City Commission.

Mr. Bailey stated that Bismarck Historical Society was unable to garner support and dropped out of the playing a part.

Vice-Chair Nodland stated that she expects the website, walking tours and Mayor's involvement to boost interest in the event. She suggested that a subcommittee meet to discuss the event further.

Ms. Sakariassen stated that she would like to help other groups begin planning for the event.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was in favor of any action and willing to be a part of planning at the soonest convenience.

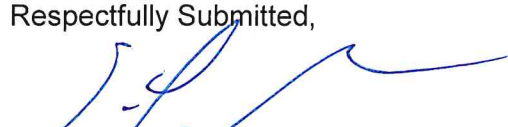
Mr. Dinkins suggested a weekly historic fact over social media which could garner awareness and interest. Ms. Sakariassen liked his suggestion.

Mr. Bailey asked what City Commission is doing for the event. Mr. Hutchings stated that he was not aware of any programming but would be happy to forward any Historic Preservation Commission ideas to the City Commission. Vice-chair Nodland stated that she will initiate contacts with various groups.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Nodland declared the meeting of the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 4:00p.m. to meet again on September 15, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Bogaczyk
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



Beth Nodland, Vice-Chair