

BISMARCK HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2026

The Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 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. Dakota Media Access was present to record the meeting and archive on freetv.org for public viewing. Chair Engel presided.

Commissioners present were Matt Hull, Beth Nodland, Kane Perrin, John Swanson, and Chair Engel. Amy Sakariassen arrived at 3:07 p.m. after roll call. Commissioner Zenker was absent.

Staff members present were Darcy Vaughan - Office Assistant, Lauren Oster – Planner, and Joshua Jyring – Assistant City Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Engel opened the public comment period. No public comments were made or submitted for the current agenda or prior to the April 15, 2026 agenda. Chair Engel closed the public comment period.

MINUTES

Chair Engel called for consideration of the minutes of the March 18, 2026 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Swanson to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nodland with Commissioners Hull, Perrin, Swanson, Nodland and Chair Engel voting in favor of the motion, the motion was approved.

2024 HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT UPDATE

The consultant for the South Capitol Survey has submitted 162 site forms (111 new, 51 updated) to the State Historic Preservation Office for review. The commission discussed utilizing remaining grant funds for public outreach, specifically a consultant presentation and a summary text document. An initial cost of \$3000 was considered too high. The consultant provided a public outreach scope and fee proposal totaling \$2400, which covers presentation development and brochure production. The commission debated the cost breakdown between these two components.

An opportunity was presented for the commission to host a small booth at the Will-Moore Elementary open house on May 6 to share information about Bismarck's history, historic preservation, and the South Capitol Survey project. A short fact sheet for the project may be created for this, though the survey report is still in draft. There was discussion about the cost and change of scope.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hull to allocate \$2,400 for consultant presentation, and the remaining for the baseball brochures. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nodland with Commissioners Perrin, Hull, Swanson, Nodland, and Chair Engel voting in favor of the motion. The motion was approved. Commission Sakariassen abstained from the vote.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

There were two nominations for the Historic Preservation Award under the Historic Education and Awareness category. The first nomination was for Chris Anderson and his presentation on the History of the Bismarck Fire Department. The second nomination was for Stacy Sturm and her downtown haunted history tour. Chris Anderson was selected for the 2026 Historic Preservation Award. Staff will work to have the award presented at the next available City Commission meeting in May with acceptance by the nominee. An appreciation letter to the runner-up was requested by the Commissioners.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hull to award Chris Anderson the Historic Preservation Award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Swanson with Commissioners Perrin, Hull, Swanson, Nodland, Sakariassen, and Chair Engel voting in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Staff recommended that the Historic Preservation Commission review and identify activities for Historic Preservation Month. Commissioner Swanson suggested having students from the Career Academy do line drawings or students from the art program at Bismarck High School. Commissioner Sakariassen mentioned that there might be a coloring page created by Friends of the Rail Bridge. Commissioner Hull was checking with the State Historic Preservation Office on partnering on the event. Commissioner Engel recommended adding Will-Moore open house flyers to the Historic Preservation Month. Commissioner Nodland questioned if the city has something in the upcoming parade on May 8. Staff will aim to have a proclamation presented at the April 28, 2026, City Commission meeting to begin the lead up to Historic Preservation Month activities in May.

ND250 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES GRANT

In December 2025, the City of Bismarck applied for the ND250 Community Initiatives Grant to create an Art and Heritage Discovery Trail. The grant offers up to \$10,000 for projects which would occur in 2026 and be completed before the end of the year.

In January 2026, the city was notified that the project was selected for funding. The project will create a series of art and heritage discovery signs which will include QR codes that will link to virtual versions of local literary, visual, or performance arts. Each link will provide a narrative on the art form and will describe how it celebrates the past 250 years of North Dakota's people, places, innovations, and/or achievements contributing to the nation's story.

A selection committee including a representative from the Downtowners, Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, and Dakota West Arts Council will be formed to review submissions and provide selections to the Bismarck City Commission. A representative from the Historic Preservation Commission was requested to join

this selection committee. Commissioner Swanson was nominated to be on the selection committee and he accepted.

DOWNTOWN DISTRICT SURVEY

Consultants for the Downtown District Survey arrived April 14 to begin survey work, documenting properties and conducting research of resources at the library, archives, and city offices. The consultants leave April 18.

An open house is scheduled for April 16 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library in Meeting Room B. Commissioners and members of the community are welcome to attend to meet and converse with the consultants. Public notice postcards were sent to property owners within the survey area. The Downtowners were also notified and have offered to share the information with their members.

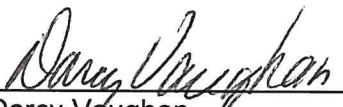
OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Oster gave an overview of the 2026 Home Show last month. Commissioner Nodland suggested using items from the Home Show booth for the Will-Moore open house booth.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Engel declared the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 3:52 p.m. to meet again on May 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Tom Baker Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Vaughan
Recording Secretary



Damita Engel
Chair