



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole: 2/23/2026
City Council: 3/2/2026

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
Maureen Storstad
03/02/2026
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

Agenda Item: Appointment to Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Submitted by: Mayor Brandon Bochenski

**Staff Recommended Action: New appointment for new Member-at-Large Curt Hanson
Term ending March 2028**

Committee Action: Motion by Berg, second by Sande to refer staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action: Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs to approve on consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND: The Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission provides research, resources, and expertise in the exercise of the City's preservation goals and needs. The Commission provides local review for historic projects which would otherwise be reviewed by the state or federal government; time is saved and local control is maintained. The city's budget allocation is doubled through the Commission's grant writing efforts, and the City's economic development efforts are enhanced by historic building preservation projects which the Commission actively promotes and facilitates. Grand Forks is more attractive and vibrant as a result of its commitment to historic preservation evidenced by the work of the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission consists of eleven community members from Grand Forks. Those members are appointed by the mayor and shall be persons who, in the opinion of the mayor, have demonstrated outstanding interest and knowledge in historical or architectural development. A majority of the commission members shall be made up of persons from among professionals in the disciplines of architecture, history, architectural history, planning, archeology or other historic preservation related disciplines, such as urban planning, American studies, American civilization, cultural geography or cultural anthropology, to the extent that such professionals are available in the community.

ACTION:

After reviewing the attached application and upon the endorsement of the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission I recommend the appointment of Curt Hanson to serve as a member-at-large for a two year term.

Mr. Hanson serves as the Department Head and University Archivist in the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections in the Chester Fritz Library. Mr. Hanson interfaces with the Commission to help further research projects through archival collections and he has expressed a keen interest in serving on the commission.

ELWYN B. ROBINSON DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
CHESTER FRITZ LIBRARY
3051 UNIVERSITY AVENUE STOP 9000
GRAND FORKS ND 58202-9000
(701) 777-4625

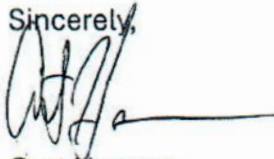
6 January 2026

Mayor Brandon Bochenski
City of Grand Forks
255 North 4th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Mayor Bochenski:

I would like to apply for the opening on the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission. I have worked with Susan Caraher and other Commission members for many years. I would like to assist them in preserving the history of Grand Forks. I have worked as an archivist in the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections since 1999. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Curt Hanson
Department Head and University Archivist
curtis.hanson@und.edu

Curt Hanson

2950 36th Ave S, Apt. A9 | Grand Forks, ND 58201
(701) 330-1778 | cujhanso@gmail.com

Work Experience

University of North Dakota, Chester Fritz Library, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Department Head and University Archivist

September 2007 – present

Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections

- Hire, train, supervise, and evaluate one full-time archivist and two full-time paraprofessionals
- Provide in-person and remote reference services to a wide variety of patrons
- Supervise the acquisition, appraisal, processing, arrangement, description, and digitization of all materials in the Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection and the University Archives
- Coordinate all aspects of departmental collection development, including soliciting archival material from donors and the acquisition of current and antiquarian books
- Digitize materials and collaborate with multiple departments for the University of North Dakota Scholarly Commons, the library's ongoing digitization project
- Promote the department through presentations, publications, and exhibits
- Update and edit the Special Collections website and maintain the Department of Special Collections social media account
- Involved in Library strategic planning endeavors
- Member of the campus Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Compliance Committee
- Appointed by the North Dakota Governor to the State Historical Records Advisory Board

University of North Dakota, Chester Fritz Library

Assistant Archivist

December 1999 – September 2007

Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections

- Processed, appraised, arranged, and described a wide variety of archival material in the Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection and University Archives
- Provided in-person and remote reference services to a wide variety of patrons
- Involved in all aspects of departmental collection development, including solicitation of archival material from donors and the acquisition of current and antiquarian books
- Involved in all aspects of Special Collections' role in the Chester Fritz Library Digital Collections, the library's digitization project
- Promoted the department's archival and genealogical collections through presentations, publications, and exhibits
- Trained and directly supervised a staff of five to eight student workers, as well as interns and volunteers
- Maintained the Special Collections website, including the conversion and upload of archival finding aids
- Provided bibliographic assistance to academic departments

Indiana University, Lilly Library, Bloomington, Indiana

Intern

August 1999 – December 1999

- Appraised, processed, and arranged a portion of the Dodd-Mead Publishing Company Records
- Researched the bibliographic history of titles published by the company and examined rare book reference sources, dealer catalogs, and websites to acquire those titles

**Indiana University, Halls of Residence Libraries
Graduate Assistant**

August 1998 – May 1999

- Managed an undergraduate residence hall library that served the needs of a diverse population of over 1,400 students
- Trained, supervised, scheduled, and evaluated a staff of six library assistants
- Managed a budget to develop a collection of reference, popular fiction, non-fiction, and scholarly books, as well as periodicals, audio/video materials and CD-ROMs
- Promoted the library through a variety of public activities
- Submitted monthly and annual reports regarding library activities
- Staffed the Undergraduate Library Reference Desk as part of a regulated rotation

**University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa
Student Assistant, Special Collections and University Archives**

May 1998 – July 1998

- Processed, appraised, arranged, and described a variety of archival material
- Indexed the alumni newsletter and the college newspaper in an online database
- Aided patrons with reference questions
- Created a display to commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg

**University of Northern Iowa
Intern, Special Collections and University Archives**

January 1998 – May 1998

- Processed, appraised, and arranged the Leon Mosley Papers, as well as several small archival collections
- Assessed the value of a multi-volume oral history collection

**Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretative Center, Moorhead, Minnesota
Intern**

August 1994 – May 1995

- Conducted research for and designed a museum exhibit regarding the history of military posts in the Red River Valley

Conference Presentations

“Making the Federal Case: the ARC of North Dakota, Disability Rights, and Advocacy.” Co-presenter. Poster Session. Mountain Plains Library Association, North Dakota Library Association, and South Dakota Library Association Tri-Conference. Grand Forks, North Dakota. October 2025.

“Becoming Communities That Include All: Documenting a Federal Lawsuit.” Co-presenter. Poster Session. Midwest Archives Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota. May 2025.

“All Rise! Judicial Collections in the Archives.” Midwest Archives Conference. Des Moines, Iowa. April 2024.

“But look here, that you may remember for your own sake what has passed between us!” Midwest Archives Conference. Indianapolis, Indiana. April 2013

“Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections.” Northern Great Plains History Conference. Fargo, North Dakota. September 2012

- "Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections." North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference. Fargo, North Dakota. September 2012
- "Taking the Final Step: Writing, Publishing and Disseminating Your Family History." Family History Workshop. Minnesota State University Moorhead. October 2011
- "Let Us Help, Please!: Archivist/Faculty Collaboration at the University of North Dakota." Midwest Archives Conference. St. Paul, Minnesota. April 2011
- "Career Paths for History Majors: Opportunities in Museums and Archives." Panel Presentation. Red River Valley History Conference. UND. March 2010
- "Genealogy Resources in the Department of Special Collections at the UND Chester Fritz Library." Family History Workshop. Minnesota State University Moorhead. September 2009
- "North Dakota Digital Initiatives." Governor's Conference on North Dakota History. Bismarck, North Dakota. November 2008
- "Researching the League." NPL (Non-Partisan League) at 90 Conference. UND. October 2008
- "Genealogy Resources in the Department of Special Collections at the UND Chester Fritz Library.» Sunnfjordlaget (Norwegian bygdslag). UND. June 2008
- "Genealogy Resources in the Department of Special Collections at the UND Chester Fritz Library." 2007 Annual 7-Lag Stevne (Meeting of seven Norwegian bygdslager). Wahpeton, North Dakota. July 2007
- "Family History Trails Through UND's Bygdebøker Collection." 30th Annual Hjemkomst Festival. Moorhead, Minnesota. June 2007
- Presenter and Panelist. CONTENTdm User Group Panel Discussion. Minitex/OCLC User Group Meeting. Minneapolis, Minnesota. October 2006
- "The University of North Dakota Chester Fritz (Digital!) Library." Co-presenter. Beyond Boundaries: Integrating Technology Into Teaching and Learning. UND. September 2006
- "The Chester Fritz Digital Library." Co-presenter. North Dakota Library Association Centennial Conference. Fargo, North Dakota. September 2006
- "Meeting User Needs: Archives and the Web." Co-presenter. Poster Session at the Mountain Plains Library Association, North Dakota Library Association, and South Dakota Library Association Tri-Conference. Fargo, North Dakota. October 2002

Publications

"New Additions to the IFMidwest Collection at the Chester Fritz Library." *IFMidwest Magazine* (publication of the IF Midwest project at UND). 2010

"IFMidwest Collection at the Chester Fritz Library." *IFMidwest Magazine*. 2008

"Digitization Projects in Special Collections." *Lux et Lex* (publication of the Chester Fritz Library). 2007

"'Special' Scrapbooks." *Lux et Lex*. 2006

"Enhancing Archival Access." *Lux et Lex*. 2004

"Dagne Olsen Papers." *Lux et Lex*. 2003

"Archives on the Web." *Lux et Lex*. 2002

Education

Certificate

Archives Leadership Institute, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

- Funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the National Archives and Records Administration

Master of Library Science

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

- Special Collections Specialization

Bachelor of Arts

Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota

Double major: History and political science

- Magna cum laude graduate

References

Available upon request