City of Grand Forks Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – July 13, 2026
City Council – July 20, 2026

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
07/20/2026
Maureen Storstad
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City Auditor

Agenda Item: Reappointments to Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission

Submitted by: Mayor Brandon Bochenski

Staff Recommended Action: Confirm the reappointment for three Commissioners for 2026-2028

Committee Action: Motion by Vein, second by Osowski to move 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 carried 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.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Chuck Flemmer: Mr. Flemmer currently serves as a representative from the community and currently is the GFHPC's Chairman. He has indicated his willingness to continue to serve another two-year term on the GFHPC.

- Gordon Iseminger: Dr. Iseminger currently serves as a representative with a professional background in history and historic preservation. He has indicated his willingness to continue to serve another two-year term on the GFHPC.

- Bill Caraher: Dr. Caraher is a history professor at UND and brings a professional background in archaeology, history, and preservation and has previously served on the State Review Board for the State Historical Society of North Dakota. He has agreed to serve another two-year term.