

FERGUS FALLS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 3, 2024

The Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 12:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall. Members present were Chair Jona Brown, Chris Schuelke, Paul Nelson, Ben Underwood, Lois Josefson, and Wayne Schuett, Planning Commission Ex-officio. Absent were Brad Sunde and Scott DeMartelaere. Staff present: Klara Beck and Jill Hanson.

**Declare Quorum / Open Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Lois Josefson motioned to approve the minutes from March 6, 2024. Seconded by Chris Schuelke. Motion passed.

Lois Josefson initiated a discussion on the minutes from February 7, 2024 relating to a correct. Chris Schuelke nominated Ben Underwood as the Vice Chair, not Lois Josefson. A motion was made by Lois Josefson to approve the revised February minutes and was seconded by Chris Schuelke. Motion passed.

**Michael Burns, AIA, CID, NCARB**

Introductions were done for historic architect Michael Burns from Fargo-Moorhead. Mr. Burns explained his education and the boards he has served on over the years, and how he specializes in historic context surveys, history/architecture surveys, reuse studies, preservation planning, and federal and state investment tax credit applications.

Mr. Burns explained the national nomination process is very complex, and how most buildings are reviewed separately for nomination. He has worked with Steve Martin from Fargo-Moorhead on national nominations. There was some discussion about the tax credits process for building repairs to historic properties and how the buildings need to be listed on National Register of Historic Places to even be considered for any tax credits. Also, the base spending must be \$5,000 greater than the adjusted value of the building, and tax credits are for existing building improvements only. SHPO must approve registered property before an application can be submitted for a national registration.

**Preservation Month Activities**

Chris Schuelke mentioned that he was working on a few tours, which included the RTC grounds and the historic downtown mystery tour. There as some discussion about having Kevin Bartram speak about the Flour Mill project at the Riverfront Pavilion.

**Downtown Historic District Study**

Chris Schuelke mentioned that we will be hearing back from our consultants on the downtown study soon.

**Prince Honeycutt House**

Wayne Schuett stated that he spoke to the owner of the Prince Honeycutt House while he was in Florida last month and she plans to be in Fergus Falls May 6 & 7. Pastor Orr still hopes to get some grants to make the property a historic museum honoring Prince Honeycutt and his contributions to black history in Minnesota.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM.

Next meeting will be May 1, 2024 at noon.

  
Chair