

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 AT 5:00 PM
ELECTRONIC REMOTE**

The regular meeting of the Grand Haven *Historic Conservation District Commission* was called to order at 5:00 PM on Thursday, January 21st, 2021 by Chairperson Liza Dora.

Roll Call of Members Present: Chair Liza Dora; Secretary Justin Forrest; and Board Members Erik Bye, Bonnie Cowles (arrived at 5:45 p.m.), Karen Lowe, and Lori VanderLende. All members stated their location as Grand Haven Michigan.

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Karen Casey, excused.

Others Present: Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; John Martin, Loutit District Library Director; Erin Pilarski, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member; Bob Monetza, Mayor; Pat McGinnis, City Manager.

1. **General Business Call to Viewing Audience:** At this time, a call to the audience was made to address the HCDC on any item, whether on the agenda or not. No comments were made by the public at this meeting.
2. **Approval of the November 19, 2020 & December 17, 2020 Regular Meeting:** Moved by Lowe to approve, board member Bye seconded the motion. This motion carried unanimously.
3. **Report Presentation by Karen Casey—Oldest Homes in City:** Karen Casey was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
4. **Report Presentation by Karen Lowe—Gap Analysis Document:** To help guide our focus and direction going forward as a board, per the recommendation of Mayor Monetza in our November 2020 meeting, board member Lowe has taken it upon herself to research and create this gap analysis packet to help understand the ways the HCDC could improve its functionality prior to making any potential changes to the boards current ordinance. Administrative liaison Mary Angel, Mayor Monetza and City Manager Pat McGinnis contributed to this discussion in helping guide the board with their thoughts in how the group could make sure that we are operating appropriately under the guidance of the local city ordinance and Act 169 of the Michigan Public Acts.
5. **Discussion of HCDC Mission and Goals for 2021:** Review of previous goals from 2020. Goals were also set for 2021.

Discussion was also had about making our mission statement more concise and direct. While this was not an official goal set for 2021, the board feels it is in our best interest to narrow down the language in the current mission statement. Creating a strong and concise mission statement will help strengthen the boards overall direction in local historic preservation efforts.

Board member Lowe, supported by Board member Bye, moved to approve the goals for 2021, as follows:

1. Improve educational material available to the public regarding preservation.
2. Standardization and simplification of our processes to help continue local conservation efforts.

This motion carried unanimously.

6. **Council Recognition of 520 Lake as a Potential Landmark of the Future in Accordance with the Ordinance [Chapter 19-Section 14 (5)] and Possible Joint Recognition with the HCDC:** Mayor Monetza was interested in presenting the owners of 520 Lake with a recognition certificate from city council. This recognition would cover the fact that while the home is not located in an actual historic district in the city, the home still has significant historic value. However, the board currently feels that it is in our best interest to pause on recognizing any more potential homes/landmarks until we have a better understanding of operating under our current ordinance. The board unanimously voted to have city council postpone the recognition of 520 Lake Ave for the time being. The board appreciates Mayor Monetza for allowing the boards input in suggestion of how to proceed with recognizing the home at 520 Lake Ave.
7. **Discussion of Beyond the Pier Conceptual Plans & the Idea of Relocating the 1223 Engine and Rail Cars:** Possible concepts for the Beyond the Pier Plans have called for potentially relocating the 1223 engine and rail cars closer to the Jackson street side. Relocating the train would allow for better development of the space in the future. All involved agreed this would be a huge undertaking if this plan were ever to come to fruition. Engine 1223 and the coal tipple are great historical assets to the city and the board continues to support the preservation of these items. No action items were made at this time.
8. **Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews:** No official update. This will now be on the agenda monthly.
9. **Lighthouse Conservancy Minutes of October 22, 2020:** Minutes are provided to members as informational only. No action necessary.
10. **Depot Committee Update:** Karen Lowe discussed the great amounts of work in efforts to restore this historic asset. The depot committee will require quite the philanthropic process to maintain the building for future use.
11. **Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member Update:** Provided by Erin Pilarski, the museum is still working on transition to new collective access database. The museum now has a 3d scanner. Education department is still doing virtual learning online.
12. **Loutit District Library Events Update:** The library will be officially reopening on 1/25/21. On 1/28/21 Jeanette Weiden will be hosting an exhibit on the 1936 winter storm that paralyzed the city and the surrounding region.

- 13. Other Business Not On The Agenda:** Nothing else was discussed at this time.
- 14. Second General Business Call to Viewing Audience:** Council Member Mike Dora, 501 Friant, wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate John Martin, Library Director, on his future retirement announcement. John will retire in 17 months.
- 15. Adjournment:** Chairperson Dora adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Secretary Justin Forrest