

CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 AT 5:00 PM  
CENTRAL PARK PLACE  
WOODBINE ROOM  
421 COLUMBUS AVENUE  
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417

Call to order: Chair Liza Dora at 5:00pm

Roll call of members present: Chair Liza Dora, Secretary Linda Rosema, Members Nina Bryhn, Chad Fisk and Robyn Vandenberg

Members excused: Vice Chair Erik Bye and Member Patrick Qua

Others present: City Planner and Administrative Assistant Brian Urquhart, Kate Crosby; Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member, Jeanette Weiden; Loutit District Library Representative, and Mayor Bob Monetza

- 1) General Business Call to the Viewing Audience (3 minutes per person)
  - a. Wally Ewing-29 Sherman Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417-Against changes
  - b. Marsha Peterson-160 Prospect, Grand Haven, MI 49417-Against changes
  - c. Randy Smith-121 Washington Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417-Against changes
  - d. Chandi Pappi-Represents Grand Haven DDA-Neutral
  - e. Tony Ciccantelli-608 Washington Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417-Against changes
  - f. Paige Brockmeyer-Against changes
  - g. Cindy Casemier-815 Ver Hoeks, Grand Haven, MI, 49417-Against changes
  - h. Jane Ewing-29 Sherman Ave., Grand Haven, MI, 49417-Against changes

The HCDC also received seven letters from residents against the proposed changes by New Holland Brewing Company. There were fifteen supporters of not changing the color of the Grand Theater entrance at 22 Washington Ave. in the gallery.

- 2) Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews
  - a. Dave White of New Holland Brewing spoke to the improvements they want to make to the façade of 22 Washington Ave., the old Grand Theater. He stated that New Holland Brewing has been in business 27 years and has 9 locations, two of which are 110 years old. Originally they planned to paint the porcelain tiles orange but have moved to wrapping the tiles with 3m vinyl wrap that is 100% reversible.
  - b. Andy Bayer, architect for New Holland Brewing stated that they are good stewards of their properties and brands. They are hoping to still have their hand without damaging the porcelain. He is completely supportive of New Holland Brewing's plans at 22 Washington Ave
  - c. Comments from HCDC members:

Chad Fisk is very concerned about removing vinyl wrap from the porcelain tiles, he asked if there is any warranty from 3M that the tiles would not be damaged. He would like to see warm LED blue and orange bulbs, keep the underside of the marquis white, take care of repairs and leave the

Grand on the marquis neon red. Chad suggested that their business would be more successful if they honor the building as is, listen to the community and be rewarded financially.

Nina Bryhn-Nina has huge concerns about changing the color of the Grand Theater façade and anything with the marquis. She emphasized the importance of preserving the historical significance of the theater, it's importance to the residents of Grand Haven, and that leaving it as is will only reward them with more support from the community.

Jeanette Weiden-Jeanette shared concerns about removing vinyl from the tiles. She also provided photos of other New Holland Brewing locations that use minimal orange and blue on their buildings.

Robyn Vandenberg-Robyn asked if New Holland Brewing owns 22 Washington Ave., they responded that they are renting with an option to buy. There will be no cocktail wagon. Robyn shared that many other business owners are very concerned about changing the color of the tiles and preserving the historical entrance and marquis.

Linda Rosema-Linda stated that she works on the first block of Washington Ave., and that some of those business owners are indeed concerned about changing a Landmark building, wanting to preserve it historically correct.

Liza Dora-Liza commented on the importance of preservation and retaining the colors of the tiles.

Mayor Bob Monetza-thanked everyone for attending and caring about our community and preserving the old buildings.

City Planner, Brian Urquhart, stated that we will not be voting on anything today. We need to read and clarify the Historic Permit Application concerning submitting plans according to code for historical preservation of a landmark building. New Holland Brewing will fill out the application with plans showing proposed changes. HCDC will approve or disapprove the application. If disapproved, we would recommend changes to New Holland Brewing and they could go through an appeal process if necessary.

Chad Fisk made a motion that was seconded by Nina Bryhn to hold on a final decision until we can meet again for more discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2024

Motion made Member Fisk and seconded by Member Bryhn to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

4) By-Laws

We will postpone discussion on the By-Laws until our May 15 meeting.

5) Tri-Cities Museum Update

Kate Crosby, Museum Advisory Member reported that May 15 a new exhibit will open-Picnics and Parades-Celebrating 100 Years of the Coast Guard Festival

6) Loutit District Library Update

Jeanette Weiden, Library Representative Member reported that April 29 a History Hounds Series-Wolves of Isle Royale will be presented at 6:30. This summer there will be walking tours and other activities.

- 7) Updates and Reports/Comments by HCDC Members  
Southwest Walking Tour-Patrick Qua will be postponed until the May 15 meeting.
- 8) Second General Business Call to the Viewing Audience (3 minutes per person)  
No one in the audience.
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm by President Liza Dora.

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Rosema  
Secretary