

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 AT 5:00 PM
GRAND HAVEN CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
519 WASHINGTON AVENUE
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza Dora at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Liza Dora, Vice-Chair Erik Bye, Secretary Linda Rosema, Members Chad Fisk, Wendy Knoth, and Patrick Qua.

Members Absent: Member Robyn Vandenberg, excused.

Others present: Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; Jeannette Weiden, Loutit District Library Representative; and Kate Crosby, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member, City Planner Brian Urquhart.

1) General Business Call to Viewing Audience

A general business call to the viewing audience was made; there was no audience present, so no response.

2) Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commission Member **Rosema**, seconded by Commission Member **Bye**, to approve the September 20, 2022 regular meeting minutes. This motion carried unanimously.

3) Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews

Patrick Quo attended the Plan Review meeting held on October 19 prior to tonight's HCDC meeting. There was one site plan in the Downtown Historic District to review, which was for a garage at 300 Washington Avenue, Capstone Building (former historic People's Bank – plans for condos were seen in July by HCDC). Members provided comments and concerns in regard to material and color choices and whether or not the proposed structure was harmonious with the existing project and surrounding historic buildings. Following the discussion, the following two motions were made:

Motion by Commission Member **Fisk**, second by Commission Member **Qua**, to request additional information on material and color choice on site plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commission Member **Fisk**, second by Commission Member **Bye**, to ask property developers to propose how the exterior façade is harmonious with surrounding historic buildings and existing project (300 Washington building). Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Member Qua offered to compose a letter to express the concerns of the commission; Commission Member Fisk offered to review. (Attachment A)

4) History Research Presentations

Kate Crosby, Curator of Exhibitions and Facilities Manager, Tri-Cities Historical Museum, gave a presentation on the museum's "CollectiveAccess" software that allows users to search through the museum's collections via their website (<https://collections.tchmuseum.org/>).

Jeannette Weiden, Genealogy Specialist, Loutit District Library, presented various sources for members to utilize for research and provided members with tips on what to research from genealogy sites, obituaries, and Sanborn maps. Some sources she provided included links from

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the Loutit District Library (<https://www.loutitlibrary.org/>) as well as ancestry.com, US City Directory, Heritage Hub, Familysearch.org, and the Library of Congress.

5) Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member Update

Kate Crosby, Museum Advisory Member, reported that the third lecture, Michigan Fencibles: Battle for Fudge Island & The Toledo War, in their "Michigan Myths & Legends" lecture series would be held on Thursday, November 17, 6:30-7:45 pm.

6) Loutit District Library Events Update

Jeannette Weiden, Loutit District Library Representative, reported that the self-guided Wicked Tours at Lake Forest Cemetery began on Tuesday, October 18 and would go through Monday, October 31, from dawn to dusk.

A "Civil War Talk" event, led by Eric Wittenburg, a nationally recognized historian of the cavalry battles of the Civil War, would be held on November 12, 2022, 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Hear about Grand Haven's resident Major Noah Ferry's contribution to the battle of Gettysburg.

7) Other Business Not On The Agenda

The December HCDC meeting would be cancelled. A possible quorum may be present for an informal, private Christmas gathering on December 21 at 5:00 p.m. All members were reminded that no action or discussion regarding the HCDC could be held.

8) Second General Business Call to Viewing Audience

A second general business call to the viewing audience was made; there was no audience present, so no response.

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison

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ATTACHMENT A



City of Grand Haven
Historic Conservation District Commission

November 8, 2022

Kevin D. Osterhart, RA
Concept Design Studio, Inc.
800 Ellis Road, Suite 508
Norton Shores, MI 49441

RE: New Garage Units for 300 Washington

Dear Mr. Osterhart:

The project's Site Plan, consisting of a new connected parking garage at 300 Washington Avenue, was reviewed by the Grand Haven Historic Conservation District Commission (HCDC) on October 19th. The property is zoned Central Business (CB) and falls within the Downtown Historic District.

The HCDC's mission includes safeguarding the heritage of the City of Grand Haven by preserving landmarks and sites, which reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history.

After reviewing the site plans, the members of the HCDC approved two motions concerning the project. The first is to request additional information on material and color choice on the site plan. What will be the color of the cement board siding? What will be the color of the trim? Are there additional details on the precast stone at the base and sill (style, size, and finish of the stone as well as color)?

The second is to ask for the property developer's perspective on how the exterior facade of the garage is harmonious with surrounding historic buildings, and in particular with the existing 300 Washington building.

We appreciate all information you can share with us concerning these two motions at this time. We realize that final building materials are often subject to cost and availability and are subject to change. Without material descriptions and a more detailed narrative, it is difficult for the HCDC to perform a proper review. The HCDC has a strong interest in learning how the parking garage will be visually tied to the 300 Washington property.

Sincerely,

Liza Dora, Chair
On behalf of the Historic Conservation District Commission