

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023, 5:00 PM**

**GRAND HAVEN CITY HALL
CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM
519 WASHINGTON AVENUE GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417**

Call to order: Chair Liza Dora called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

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

Excused: Vice-Chair Erik Bye and Member Nina Bryhn.

Others present: Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; Brian Urquhart, City Planner; Kate Crosby, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member and Mayor-Elect Bob Monetza.

1) General Business Call to Viewing Audience

There were no comments.

2) Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews

Chair Dora read a letter received from Carl and Barb Rowe with their concerns about the Fire Barn (18-20 N. 5th) lacking more than one plan from developers. Commissioners expressed their concerns as well and looked forward to presentations from the awarded developer.

3) Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2023, of the Historic Conservation District Commission.

Motion to approve by **Fisk**, second by **Vandenberg** with the removal of item 7F (the HCDC will be on the City Council agenda in early 2024). Motion was approved unanimously.

4) Tri-Cities Museum Update

Kate Crosby, Museum Advisory Member reported that the annual board meeting held November 14, 2023, was very successful. Events coming up are "Murder at the Museum" this Saturday is Sold Out and the Holly Jolly Holiday Event on December 2 from 2-4 pm is a free family event. The museum will be closed Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Christmas.

5) Loutit Library Update Report

Representative Jeanette Weiden reported that it is the end of the year; there will be no Genealogy classes the rest of the year, just Coffee & Coloring. Sunday concerts start on November 19 at 2 pm with Wyatt & Sheri Knapp. All events are always free at the library. Movie Matinees will be offered on No School Days and the library will be closed on Thanksgiving.

6) Updates & Reports/Comments By HCDC Members

- a. Southwest Walking Tour Feedback – Member Qua recommended the First Presbyterian Church be removed from the tour because it is included in the Downtown tour brochure. Could use QR codes on hidden pages for more information. Will pursue technology with iCloud storage. Mary Angel suggested using CANVA to build a brochure for free.
- b. Member Dora reported that she and Bye are still working on the East End District Walking Tour brochure. She reviewed the list of homes built before 1900 of which 38 properties are located in the East End District. With six built in 1840 and others built 1870-1880. This would substantiate the information that industry owners had built housing for their employees during this time. A lot of the housing in the East End Historical District is similar to bungalow style.

- c. Fisk suggested we choose houses that are interesting to look at for the brochure. Crosby suggested we use CLIO to create digital walking tours. It is free to download. She offered to send the link to members. Fisk suggested that Bye narrate the walking tours with his good voice. Discussion was held about evaluating historically significant buildings as a district, neighborhood, and block, keeping in mind that history is more important than appearance. Qua reported that the tree on Howard Ave., which was in jeopardy of being taken down in the infrastructure rebuild, was saved.
- 7) **Second General Business Call to Viewing Audience**
Mayor-Elect Monetza thanked the commission for having him. Commissioners were all in agreement that they appreciated his interest and input.
- 8) **Adjournment** 5:52 pm (Notice that next month's scheduled meeting for December 20 will be canceled in place of our holiday gathering. Dora will send out invitations with all the details.)

Submitted by
Linda Rosema, Secretary
Liza Dora, Chair