

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 AT 5:00 PM
GRAND HAVEN CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
519 WASHINGTON AVENUE**

Call to order: Vice-Chair Robyn Vandenberg. 5:00 PM.

Roll Call of Members Present: Vice-Chair Robyn Vandenberg; Commission Members Bonnie Cowles, Liza Dora, Paul Martin, Karen Casey, and vacancy.

Members Absent: Chair Erik Bye, excused.

Others Present: Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; John Martin, Loutit District Library Director; Erin Pilarski, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member; Jennifer Howland, Community Development Manager.

1) General Business Call to Viewing Audience

No audience members came forward.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Casey, seconded by Commissioner Dora, to approve the Historic Conservation District Commission's regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2021. This motion carried unanimously.

3) Acceptance of resignation

Motion by Commissioner Dora, seconded by Commissioner Cowles, to accept, with regret, the resignation of commission member/secretary Justin Forrest. This motion carried unanimously.

4) 2022 Veteran's Day Program - Major Noah Ferry and the 5th Michigan Calvary at Gettysburg

Liaison Angel referenced a letter that the City received from Edward A. Grafton, Tri-Cities Historical Museum Board Member, requesting a collective effort to present a 2022 Veteran's Day Program titled "Major Noah Ferry and the 5th Michigan Calvary at Gettysburg." The program would take place during the week of November 6-12, 2022. Mr. Grafton was seeking support from the City, the Chamber, Loutit Library, Tri-Cities Historical Museum, American Legion, Post #28, VFW Post 2326, Grand Haven High School, Michigan Calvary Brigade, Michigan National Guard. Mr. Eric Wittenberg, Civil War Historian and expert on the cavalry battles at Gettysburg, is willing to come to be a keynote speaker/lecturer. Some of the expenses for this program would include travel and lodging for Mr. Wittenberg's travel and lodging was estimated to be at least \$1,500. A cost associated with the use of museum, library and city facilities may also be incurred.

Casey mentioned that more Grand Haven residents were most likely involved in this battle and more research should be done to include them in this recognition.

Erin Pilarski, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member, said that although they support this program, details would still need to be worked out regarding the exhibit, budget, etc.

Motion by Commissioner Dora, seconded by Commissioner Cowles, to support a collective effort to present a 2022 Veteran's Day Program titled "Major Noah Ferry and the 5th Michigan Calvary at Gettysburg" on November 6-12, 2022. This motion carried unanimously.

5) **City Staff Review of Text Amendments to Chapter 19 – History of the City of Grand Haven Ordinances**

Jennifer Howland, Community Development Manager reviewed with the commission the updates that she had adjusted from our first reading with her at the October meeting. The commission agreed with the amendments that were made. A suggestion was made that the commission consider appointing a sub-committee to review permit applications to decide if it's necessary to hold a special meeting of the Historic Conservation District Commission. The Commission agreed that the proposed text amendments were ready to be presented to City Council at a work session (tentatively scheduled for December 20).

6) **Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews**

JW's Facade Improvements Update – Kirsten Runschke from Architektura PLC provided details of improvements to the restaurant on the corner of 7th and Washington Ave. with proposed materials. The Commission was impressed with the improvements proposed and happy to hear that historic features will be preserved where possible. The building was found to be solid and the stucco and arches would be preserved if possible, adding metal siding and moving the primary entrance to Washington St. The Commission thanked representatives and owner, Chris Weavers for presenting and preserving some Grand Haven history.

7) **Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member Update**

Erin Pilarski, Museum Advisory Member, stated that the museum is very excited to be a part of the Gettysburg battle event. She also mentioned The "Deck the Halls" event, which includes trees submitted and decorated by area charitable organizations. The public will be able to purchase a vote for \$1 each to elect the tree of their choice. Charities will receive the funds collected by votes. Erin also reminded everyone about the Holly Jolly Family Day event that will take place on December 4 before the Jingle Bell Parade. It may be adjusted per Covid periodicals.

8) **Loutit District Library Events Update**

John Martin, Library Director, reported that the Story Walks have been very successful around the community. The one presented in the cemetery was extremely well attended. They will continue to expand to other cemeteries and will have a Walk as part of the Gettysburg Battle event.

9) **Other Business Not On the Agenda**

HCDC members presented past Chairperson, Liza Dora with a gift of appreciation for her service. Liaison Angel mentioned that our next meeting, December 16, in past years has been typically shortened or replaced with a Christmas celebration. Members discussed that, due to current Covid numbers, we will just have a shortened meeting and not a celebration. Member Martin asked about the work the commission does. He suggested that our commission be more proactive and educate the community. He mentioned that the Historic Commission he was on in Mason City developed three brochures that featured specific architectures found in Mason City (Queen Anne, Italianate & Four Square). Casey stated that we had gotten away from the education that we had been doing due to wanting to update and clarify our ordinances, but that she would very much like to get back to it and liked the idea of the brochures member Martin had mentioned. Once the ordinance is revised and application is updated, she thought the commission should move back to more educational materials for the community.

10) **Second General Business Call to Viewing Audience** – Former Mayor Bob Monetza wanted to compliment the HCDC members for all the work that has been done by this commission and hope that will continue to preserve and educate the community.

11) **Adjournment 6:35 p.m.**