

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Grand Haven Historic Conservation Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2019 by Chairperson Marsha Peterson at the City Hall Council Chambers, 519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven, Michigan, 49417.

Roll Call of Members Present: Chairperson Marsha Peterson; Board Members Karen Casey, Bonnie Cowles, Cynthia Crane, Liza Dora, and Jane Stoepker.

Others Present: Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; John Martin, Loutit District Library Director, Bob Monetza, Council Member.

Members Absent: None.

1. Approval of the June 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Cynthia Crane, seconded by Karen Casey to approve the June 20, 2019 Historic Conservation District Commission minutes. This motion carried unanimously.

2. Annual Elections.

A discussion was held in regard to nominations for the annual elections of Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The commission will elect members to fill those seats at the September meeting. Current Chair, Marsha Peterson, expressed interest in continuing to serve as Chair; Member Liza Dora expressed interest in the Vice-Chair seat and Jane Stoepker expressed interest in serving as Secretary.

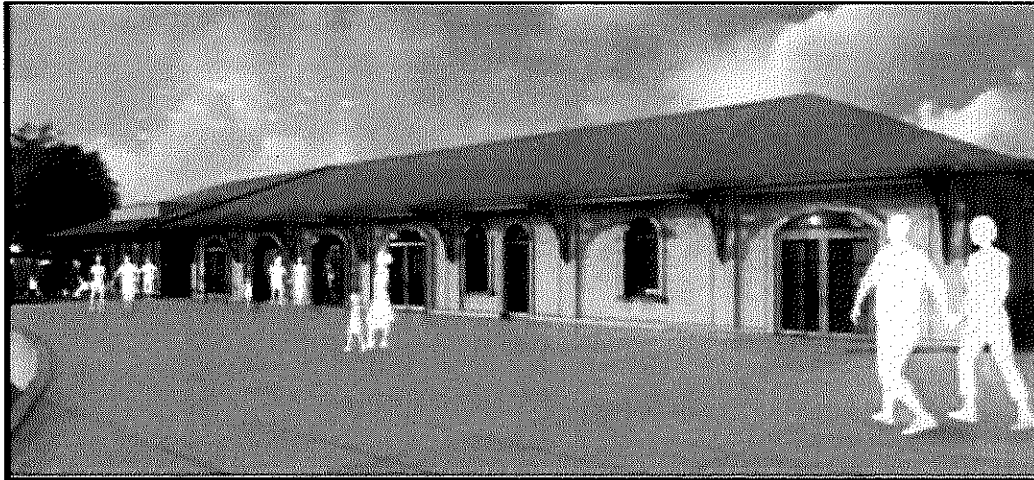
3. Proposed Grand Trunk Depot Design Concepts By Kirsten Runschke, architekturaPLC Presented by City Manager Pat McGinnis.

One of the challenges for modern day use with the new Waterfront Stadium and the Grand Trunk (Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad Depot) Depot building is that it lacks appeal from the outside and does not draw interest into the building. City Manager McGinnis provided some background history of earlier design concepts that were presented to various groups, including the Historic Conservation District Commission. He acknowledged that the majority were not in favor of those previously presented drawings that significantly opened up the back of the building and turned windows into doors, because they were not sensitive to the historic nature of the building. He also noted that, currently, there is no budget for renovations.

The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation has had some recent donor interest, so they paid for new renderings of what the depot could look like if it was opened up on the waterfront stadium side, while still complimenting the historic nature of the building. City Manager McGinnis presented the revised renderings produced by Kirsten Runschke, architekturaPLC, which incorporated elements that are reminiscent of the transportation hubs of the late 19th and 20th Century. Curved archways at the tops of several openings maintained more of the historic integrity of the building. The other side of the building would be left alone. Design concepts of the interior, showing what it might look like for holding receptions, meetings, trainings, and public/commercial areas were also presented. Feedback on those drawings from the Historic Conservation District Commission, Main Street's Preservation and Place Committee, various interest groups, and Council would be sought.

The consensus of the Historic Commission was that they were more accepting of these new renderings than of earlier concepts and that the depot's usefulness should be considered.

Questions were raised if these drawings followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and whether the renovations would remove the depot from the National Register of Historic Places and prevent it from being eligible for federal historic tax credits, façade and other grants. City Manager McGinnis would look into it further.



4. Review of Local Landmark Application – Washington Street Inn, 608 Washington, Grand Haven, owned by Tony and Michelle Ciccantelli.

The application submitted by Tony and Michelle Ciccantelli for consideration of local landmark designation was emailed to the commission on July 2. (The Commission didn't meet in July because of the tour of the lighthouse.) The commission was asked to review the application in accordance with the local ordinance (Chapter 19 – History).

Council member Monetza had questions on what the local landmark designation entailed. It was noted that it wouldn't restrict an owner's property rights or protect a structure from insensitive alterations. The owner's may purchase a plaque at cost from the City to install on their home or building.

5. PM Environmental Information Request.

A request was received on July 29 for additional information on the Northwest and Riverfront Neighborhood Historic Districts to assist with an Environmental Site assessment at multiple properties near 125 Elliot. Administrative Liaison Mary Angel took photos of these properties and surrounding homes in the neighborhoods and passed them around. Board Member Karen Casey volunteered to search the 2016 Grand Haven Master Plan in the context of the request. Administrative Liaison Mary Angel also suggested looking at our historic district maps/descriptions and walking tours. Chair Marsha Peterson would compile the final response.

6. Collection of Emergency Contact Information Forms.

All members returned their completed forms. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Administrative Liaison will have these forms on file if needed during an emergency while a meeting is taking place.

7. Adjournment at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Angel, Administrative Assistant