

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 AT 5:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Grand Haven Historic Conservation Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 16, 2020, by Chairperson Marsha Peterson at the City Hall Council Chambers, 519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven, Michigan, 49417.

Call to order by Chairperson Marsha Peterson.

Roll Call of Members Present: Chairperson Marsha Peterson; Board Members Karen Casey, Bonnie Cowles, Cynthia Crane, Liza Dora and Karen Lowe; and Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member Erin Pilarski.

Members Absent: Jane Stoepker, excused.

Others present: Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; John Martin, Loutit District Library Director, Council Member Mike Dora.

1. Approval of the November 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Karen Lowe, seconded by Cindy Crane, to approve the November 21, 2019, meeting minutes. This motion carried unanimously.

2. 2020 Goals for Discussion & Review Purpose of HCDC

Goals for discussion were presented, as follows:

- Future Walking Tours
 - How might they look in the future
 - Collaboration w museum & library
- Recognition of other historic homes
 - How do we get others interested
- Maintain a presence and have continued input for further development of historic structures, such as the Depot.
- History of Homes recorded before demolition; work with Community Development
- Advocate to homeowners that HCDC is available to help with recommendations prior to renovating homes
- Collaborate with museum and library in supporting role; i.e., brochures, events
 - Special events like "Amazing Race," Costume Re-enactments and tours (Highland Park, Cemetery).
- Present Council with an "annual report" on the boards goals and achievements and gather feedback
- Karen Casey offered her grant writing skills

Chair Marsha Peterson encouraged members to continue thinking of goals for further discussion and adoption at a future meeting.

3. Lighthouse Conservancy Update

HCDC Member Representative Cynthia Crane reminded everyone of the upcoming fundraiser at the Eagles on Saturday, January 25, 2:00-7:00 p.m. for the "Inside Out Lighthouse Project."

4. Depot Committee Update

The Depot Committee believed that Progressive AE was the best engineering firm to use. They have had extensive experience with historic buildings and designed the waterfront stadium, so they have a great sensibility to the City's waterfront.

HCDC Member Representative Karen Lowe, addressed the article that was published in the *Grand Haven Tribune* on January 13 and noted that it is both inaccurate and misleading; she proved a full update to everyone.

The Depot Committee did indeed approve a five-phased proposal from Progressive AE. City Council approved a resolution to approve a grant from the Community Foundation to develop a consensus design plan and to approve an agreement with Progressive AE to provide Phases 1-3 of a proposal dated November 21, 2019.

While the first three phases are accurately described in the article, the timing of the work has been delayed. For example, Phase II has not yet begun and involves work sessions with our committee to bring about consensus on design. The original proposal from Progressive AE included some aggressive dates, initially based on the City's desire to move quickly. That need has subsided somewhat for two reasons:

- 1) Full funding has not been secured and if it follows the regular Grand Haven Community Foundation cycle, approval by their board would occur in May;
- 2) As some of you know, mold was discovered at Chinook Pier (owned by the City) late last summer and, unfortunately, despite efforts to address, it appears that remediation and restoration work could cost close to \$1 million. As Chinook Pier will not be available for occupancy this spring, the City has approved allowing displaced tenants to temporarily set up shop in the Depot while they sort things out.

5. Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member Update

Erin Pilarski, Education Curator, was introduced to the HCDC. Erin reported that the West Michigan Pike exhibit was opening tonight and will be displayed through the end of June. She also noted that the Tri-Cities Historical Museum was the recipient of a \$30,000 donation from "Woman Who Care." The money would be used for improvements and renovations to the Education Room and hoped to have completed by next year for school participation.

6. Loutit District Library Events Update

John Martin, Library Director, reported that Jeanette Weiden, local history/genealogy, is working on some (haunted) cemetery tours that would include Nunica, old sections of Spring Lake Cemetery, Lake Forest Cemetery, Grand Haven Township and Robinson Township Cemeteries. In addition, she is working on a "Mom & Stroller" Historic Walking Tour, where the stops would be set for children to get out of strollers to play.

On January 23, at 6:30 p.m., a new documentary, "Celebrating the First 100 Years" of the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post #28, will be shown at the library. It is projected to air on PBS at a future date.

7. Other Business Not on the Agenda

- Save the Date: Boards & Commissions Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 30; Social Hour at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.
- Council Meetings are now available to view "live" from Facebook (new as of January 6), as well as from YouTube and WAWL (103.5 FM).
- Anyone can sign up to join the City's Email list to receive agendas automatically. If you subscribe to this list, you will get an email with a link to the agenda page (<https://grandhaven.org/city-services/agendas/>) whenever a new agenda is posted. The City will not send any other emails to this address based upon your signing onto the agenda notification list.
- Mary Angel will email all members the dropbox link (<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/op5uncq8mbajnmd/AADU0W6bQXI187ixvTslHqIfa?dl=0>) again for member resources; i.e., walking tour brochures, landmark information, ordinances, historic research, etc.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison