CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020 AT 5:00 PM
ELECTRONIC REMOTE

The regular meeting of the Grand Haven Historic Conservation District Commission (HCDC) was called to order at 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 17th, 2020 by Chairperson Liza Dora.

**Members Present:** Chair Liza Dora; Secretary Justin Forrest; and Board Members Erik Bye. Those present for the meeting tonight announced Grand Haven, MI as their location.

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chair Karen Casey; Bonnie Cowles; Karen Lowe and Lori VanderLende.

**Others Present:** Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; John Martin, Loutit District Library Director; Erin Pilarski, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member; Bob Monetza, Mayor; Ashley Latsch, Assistant to the City Manager; Pat McGinnis, City Manager; Jennifer Howland, Community Development and Matt Christie of Remax of Grand Haven.

*Due to a lack of quorum, the commission did not take action on any items; however, the following discussions took place.*

1. **Welcome and Introduction of New Member Erik Bye:** Liza welcomed Erik Bye to the commission. Erik is a history teacher at Grand Haven Area Public Schools.

2. **General Business Call to Viewing Audience:** There were no comments at the start of the meeting; however, just after adjournment, Matthew Braginton, 119 Slayton reached out via Facebook. Chair Dora contacted him after the meeting. Mr. Braginton had concerns about the idea of relocating the 1223 Engine and rail cars in regard to discussions held for the Beyond the Pier project.

3. **Discussion of HCDC Mission and Goals for 2021:** Liza read over our goals and our mission statement. In January of 2020 HCDC reviewed goals, no changes were made. Forrest and Bye liked the goals that were currently in place.

4. **Council Recognition of 520 Lake as a Potential Landmark of the Future in Accordance with the Ordinance [Chapter 19-Section 14 (5)] and Possible Joint Recognition with the HCDC:** Mayor Monetza was made aware of the 520 Lake home for recognition purposes, even though it was out of historic district boundaries. Mayor Monetza discussed the recognition of 520 Lake as a possible future landmark by the City Council. Mayor Monetza was seeking input from the members of the HCDC regarding a presentation at a City Council meeting on Monday, February 1st. Since a quorum of members were not present, the Mayor would like to bring this back the HCDC at their January meeting.

5. **Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews**

   - 133 Washington, Sandi Gentry Building - In December 2018-January 2019, plans were reviewed and it was determined that since this structure was not the original building it would not be judged by standards for an historic structure, as far as the HCDC was concerned (Minutes of January 17, 2019 HCDC Meeting attached). Work was not completed and the site plan review approval has since expired and is back before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has a revised list of material recommendations and the applicant is willing to comply (cladding materials). The HCDC has an opportunity to weigh in if they feel it is necessary. This structure is not the original...
but it is within the Downtown Historical District, however, the building is not historical. The original building burned down. Remax is looking to revamp the structure but a minimalist approach has been taken to the building. Members at the meeting tonight supported the design plan for the Remax building at 133 Washington.

- 206 Washington – Plans were received after the agenda had been set; there was some initial confusion about which building it was for but was later confirmed. The commission was interested in seeing a rendition of the building addition view from the Washington Avenue side. The drawings provided only showed the alley side and the sides of the addition. The commission had some concerns regarding the third floor front from the Washington street view and any changes made to the original structure from the Washington side.

[The day after the meeting, clarification was made by the architect, Denny Dryer, that nothing is being done to the front of 206 Washington. The addition is only on the south face (parking lot side) and that the addition would not be seen from the Washington side.]

6. **Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member Update:** The museum, Loutit District Library and the Spring Lake Library are meeting to plan summer reading programs. These will most likely be virtual. The museum is moving to a more user-friendly software called Collective Access, with a timeline to finish the update within the next two months.

7. **Loutit District Library Events Update:** Jeannette is working on the history of the Great Snowstorm of 1936; it will air the last Thursday in January. WAWL is taking over public access channels and the library hopes to work with them in the future.

8. **Other Business not on the Agenda:** Member Bye asked if the commission had discussed the redevelopment of Anna’s House and the historic marquee sign. Chair Dora responded that she sent a letter to the developers on behalf of the HCDC and the response was that they intended to keep the marquee sign and appreciated the historical significance of the Grand Theatre.

9. **Adjournment:** 5:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Forrest, Secretary