

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023 AT 5:00 PM  
GRAND HAVEN CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
519 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza Dora at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

**Members Present:** Chair Liza Dora, Secretary Linda Rosema, Members Wendy Knoth, Patrick Qua, and Robyn Vandenberg.

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chair Erik Bye, (excused) and Member Chad Fisk, (excused).

**Others present:** Jeannette Weiden, Loutit District Library Representative; Kate Crosby, Tri-Cities Museum Advisory Member; Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison; and Brian Urquhart, City Planner.

**1) General Business Call to Viewing Audience**

A general business call to the viewing audience was made; there was no response.

**2) Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commission Member **Vandenberg**, seconded by Commission Member **Qua**, to approve the November 16, 2022, regular meeting minutes. This motion carried unanimously.

**3) Planning Commission Site Plan Reviews**

There were no new plans for review/comment at this time; however, Member Qua informed the commission that there would be a site plan review next Wednesday, January 25 on the Diesel Plant. Although it is not in an historic district, it has been deemed historically significant by the commission when reviewed in 2020-2022 and the commission also hosted a public tour of the plant. The developer was extended 60 days of due diligence by City Council.

Chair Dora reported that the garage structure at 300 Washington Ave. was approved by the Planning Commission with a one-foot setback. Her concern was that the structure would look like a storage unit.

Member Vandenberg reported that she thought three of the eight total units at 300 Washington Avenue had been sold.

Planner Urquhart reported that the building permit application was updated to encourage people within historic districts to learn about the history of their structure and property. Administrative Liaison Angel suggested adding a hyperlink to the application for the historic conservation district map, so that applicants could easily determine if they are within an historic conservation district.

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

Kate Crosby, Museum Advisory Member, reported on the following:

- a. Caring for your Collection Programs – January 18, February 1, and February 8, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Community Archives and Research Center (CARC), 1410 172<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Register with Erin.
- b. Recent Acquisitions Exhibit until February 12
- c. From Port to Paint: Maritime Art in the Collection – February 24 to August 13, 2023
- d. Visit <https://www.tri-citiesmuseum.org/>

**5) Loutit District Library Events Update**

Jeannette Weiden, Loutit District Library Representative, reported on upcoming programs, as follows:

- a. January 23 at 6:30 p.m., The Memory and Legacy of Emmett Till, and the start of the Civil Rights movement
- b. January 31, 6:30 p.m., DNA presentation
- c. March 16, 6:00 p.m., Lighthouses of Michigan
- d. Visit <https://www.loutitlibrary.org/>

**6) Other Business Not On The Agenda**

Members Qua and Knoth are gathering information on a walking tour of the Southwest Historic District.

A discussion was held about whether there may be any grants available for locally designated landmark sites. The owner of 509 Washington, which was built in 1868, reached out to Planner Urquhart to find out if there were any historical repair grants. Chair Dora recalled that Ben Tabor, owner of The Grand Armory Brewery, approached the commission (October 21, 2021) for support while they were seeking a State Historic Building Grant to offset costs for improvements. The commission wrote a letter of support.

[After the meeting, Museum Advisory Member Crosby emailed commissioners the following link as a source of basic information for people looking for state and national grants, and tax incentives/credits.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/grants-and-incentives.htm>]

Chair Dora requested that commissioners read the city ordinance, Chapter 19 History, in preparation for further discussion and interpretation and how it might relate to updating the local landmark application.

**7) Second General Business Call to Viewing Audience**

A second general business call to the viewing audience was made; there was no response.

**8) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Linda Roesema, Secretary