

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
HISTORIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 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, Vice-Chair Erik Bye Secretary Linda Rosema, Members Chad Fisk Wendy Knoth, Patrick Qua, and Robyn Vandenberg.

**Members Absent:** None.

**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 **Bye**, seconded by Commission Member **Vandenberg**, to approve the January 18, 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.

Motion by Commission Member Bye, seconded by Commission Member Rosema, to approve a letter dated February 10, to the plan review team written by Patrick Qua, Plan Review Committee Representative, regarding the depot building, 518 S Harbor, encouraging the preservation of the exterior façade of the building. This motion carried unanimously. [Attachment A]

**4) Review & Interpretation of Chapter 19, History**

A discussion was held regarding the language in the ordinance. Member Fisk commented that under Sec. 19-12 – Definitions, (7) he would like to see the words “an historically significant” be inserted after the meaning of “Landmark.”

Members of the commission who had gone through the earlier review process in 2019-2020 recapped the previous intentions and concerns that were brought up by the commission. Current members voiced similar intentions and made similar suggestions. There was a consensus to focus on education via the website, social media, and postcards and to dovetail state funding opportunities.

There was a consensus among members to first focus on getting the text of the historic conservation district descriptions in the ordinance to coincide with the maps that are used as visual resources. Member Fisk offered to draw the maps and work with Member Dora on some of the discrepancies. Consideration for approval of maps for each district would be placed on future agendas of the commission.

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

Kate Crosby, Museum Advisory Member, reported on upcoming events in March. Visit <https://www.tri-citiesmuseum.org/>

**6) Loutit District Library Events Update**

Jeannette Weiden, Loutit District Library Representative, reported on upcoming programs in March. Visit <https://www.loutitlibrary.org/>

**7) Project Updates & Reports By HCDC Members**

Members Qua and Knoth are gathering information on a walking tour of the Southwest Historic District. Members Bye and Dora are gathering information on a walking tour of the Southwest Historic District. Structures to be included were expected to be ready for consideration for inclusion in each brochure at the March meeting.

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

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

**9) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Mary Angel, Administrative Liaison



## City of Grand Haven

### Historic Conservation District Commission

February 10, 2023

Brian Urquhart, AICP  
City Planner  
City of Grand Haven  
519 Washington Ave.  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear Mr. Urquhart,

While plan review discussions and deliberations continue regarding the future development of the former Grand Haven Diesel Plant, 518 S. Harbor Dr., the City of Grand Haven's Historic Conservation District Commission (HCDC) strongly encourages the preservation of the exterior façade of the building. As described in a letter from the HCDC to Grand Haven City Council dated March 23, 2022, the Diesel Plant is a historically significant structure, and it provides a sense of place locally and nationally.

The HCDC acknowledges that the preservation of the shell of the building is challenging. The proposed site plan and demolition plan, provided by the developer, are encouraging. They specifically call for masonry cleaning on all four facades of the building, which suggest that the current brick façade will be maintained. In addition, there is no mention of demolition of any significant portion of the existing building.

The removal of the diesel engines will potentially require the demolition of part, or perhaps all, of the front façade (north elevation facing Harbor Drive). It is the HCDC's hope that reconstruction of this north-facing elevation will be done with materials and style exactly matching, as best as possible, the existing façade.

The HCDC is pleased that the repurposing and reusing of the Grand Haven Diesel Plant building, with its valuable exterior intact, is being pursued by the developer. It is a great opportunity to preserve a piece of Grand Haven's history while adding a new and vibrant space to the community.

Sincerely,

Patrick Qua  
HCDC Plan Review Liaison