

GRAND HAVEN COMMUNITY CENTER

A/K/A Central Park Place Minutes

October 27, 2025

Present: James Porenta, Dawn Wolfe, Doug VanOss (by phone), Martha Alexander

Absent: Meghan Allison

Others Present: Mayor Bob Monetza, Dana Kollwehr – Assistant City Manager

1. **Meeting called to order:** Chair, Jim Porenta, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of agenda:** Alexander motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Wolfe. Motion approved 3-0.
3. **Children's Museum Updates:** Staff provided an update to the Board on the status of the Children's Museum Proposal. A presentation was given at the October 6th City Council meeting, and the Council directed staff to start negotiations with the Grand Haven Children's Museum for a lease. The proposal was further discussed with the Board. Members continued to suggest that the City consider asking the Museum to use only the ground floor instead of splitting the space between two floors. Concerns were raised about the future use of the remaining community center space, since weddings and business partners utilize the Woodbine and Escanaba rooms. Additionally, community and school art shows use the entire hallway and wall space, so members expressed worry about how to keep hosting these important community activities. VanOss proposed that the City and the Board each develop a proforma for what is proposed or possible to ensure progress that benefits everyone. The Board also voiced concerns about what would happen to the building if construction begins and is not completed, or if they move in and then have to close. Regarding the addition, members also expressed worries about losing natural light in the ballroom. Staff responded that some of these concerns would need to be addressed in the lease, while others would require a different approach to operating the building.

While the city negotiates the lease, the Community Center Board will continue to explore their questions, concerns and come up with options for how best to utilize the building or existing programming with reduced square footage.

4. Committee Reports

MARKETING – Kollwehr shared the Leverage in-kind services Central Park Place will receive after being reviewed by Board member Allison. Moving forward, Leverage will provide monthly website updates, one monthly email newsletter and one monthly blog post. The group discussed how the newsletter list was generated and problems with signing up to receive updates. Kollwehr will follow up with Leverage on these items and report back.

ARTS – No update.

ORGANIZATIONS – Wolfe shared that she will reach out to the new hotel to inquire about their space needs. Kollwehr will meet with Wolfe to discuss future rental considerations with the potential change to available rental space.

COMMUNITY- No update.

FINANCE- VanOss provided an update on the first quarter financials to the Board. Notably, rental revenue was up from the previous fiscal year and operating expenses were down. Electricity was especially down, which may be due to the new lighting in the ballroom.

5. Unfinished Business – None

6. Approval of September 22, 2025 meeting minutes

Motion by Wolfe, second by Alexander to approve the September 22, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 24 , 2025