



Minutes
Board of Directors
Grand Haven Main Street
January 13, 2022
Community Center, 421 Columbus Ave

Meeting Called to Order by Chair Todd Anthes at 7:11 a.m.

Chair Todd Anthes explained that the meeting was initially convened at the City Council Chamber as is routine, however the meeting was adjourned and re-convened at the Community Center to give participants room to safely breathe due to peak rates of Covid 19 transmission in Ottawa County in recent days.

Present: Todd Anthes, Cathy McNally, Todd Hancock, Cara Galbavi, Joyce Workman, Chris Weavers-Stevenson, Andy VanderHoek, Kristin Hibbard, Dave Garland, Carolyn Taylor, Bob Warren

Absent: Sharon Behm, Jude Boyle

Also Present: Roger Bergman, Pat McGinnis

Call to Audience/Public Comments

Roger Bergman, 214 Washington Avenue, commented that he would like to see greater efforts in 2022 and beyond to maintain the flower beds downtown.

Acceptance of Regular and Consent Agenda

Motion by Bob Warren, second by Cara Galbavi, to accept the Consent and Regular Agendas as presented on today's agenda. Motion Carries with Mayor McNally abstaining.

Consent Agenda

Review and Approve Minutes from December 9, 2021 Board Meeting Review and Approve Current Financial Records.

Motion by Dave Garland to approve, second by Joyce Workman, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carries with Mayor McNally abstaining.

Motion by Carolyn Taylor, second by Bob Warren to appoint the Executive Committee for 2022 as follows:

Executive Committee Slate – 2022

*Cara Galbavi – Chair
Andy VanderHoek – Vice-Chair*



*Kristin Hibbard – Treasurer
Joyce Workman – Secretary
Todd Anthes – Past-Chair*

Motion carries with Mayor McNally abstaining.

Recreational Marijuana Discussion

Jeremy gave a summary of the current discussion and explained that the Recruitment and Retention Committee had discussed the issue of whether Recreational Marijuana should be permitted as a by-right or special use in the downtown district and, if so, where?

Mayor McNally asked for a clarification about whether buildings fronting Washington could sell recreational marijuana out of the backside of the building. Jeremy replied that he did not believe this would not be permissible.

Carolyn Taylor advised that she felt the MSDDA ought to go on record as opposed to recreational marijuana in the MSDDA. Joyce Workman agreed that she would not support sales in the district.

Mayor McNally expressed that she had researched current litigation in other communities, including Traverse City and Port Huron. Litigation was initiated by well-resourced for profit companies who had not been successful in getting a permit.

Members made a distinction between whether the Board would support the land use under any conditions or if the Board generally opposes the sale of recreational marijuana in general.

Motion by Chris Weavers Stephenson, seconded by Todd Hancock, that if the City Council approves recreational marijuana sales in Grand Haven, then the Board approves the Executive Committee's recommendation that the MSDDA support the buffers currently in place for medical marijuana for the sale of recreational marijuana with no sales on properties fronting Washington Avenue.

Yes: Todd Anthes, Cathy McNally, Todd Hancock, Cara Galbavi, Chris Weavers-Stephenson, Andy VanderHoek, Kristin Hibbard, Dave Garland

No: Carolyn Taylor, Bob Warren, Joyce Workman

Abstain: Cathy McNally

Motion carries.

Discussion continued about the broader issue, including whether sales should be permitted in the district or whether sales should be allowed in the whole City. Members suggested that stakeholders be surveyed to help the Board formulate a recommendation on these two broader questions.



Director's Report

- Match on Main Grant Award. JW's received support through this program for their current investment at the corner of Washington and 7th Street.
- Outdoor Dining Update. A recommendation will be forthcoming to the City Council.
- Beyond The Pier Update. Still up on the City website; to be discussed at the Committee level and advice will be directed to the board when the Committees feel comfortable offering recommendations.
- Wine About Winter postponed due to concerns about virus transmission.
- City Council is undergoing strategic Planning and input is being solicited from all Boards and Commissions of the City.

Chair's Report

Todd advised that he had concerns about the approval process for street closures. The Mayor explained why she asked questions about the Jeep Fest and whether it was a good idea to close Washington for a full Saturday in May. Her interest in an MSDDA recommendation is whether events will benefit local businesses.

Call to Audience/Public Comments

Chris Girard, Surf Shop, 16 Washington. Listed a number of concerns including permissiveness for marijuana shops, street closures, and inconsistent hours downtown.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 a.m. on February 10, 2022, at the Community Center, 421 Columbus Avenue.