

**City of Bridgman**  
**Planning Commission Regular Meeting**  
**March 16, 2023**  
**5:30 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Truesdell called the regular meeting of the Bridgman City Planning Commission to order at 5:30 pm on March 16, 2023, at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Dorothea Crocker, Eugene Herrman, Joan Hurray, Richard Kading, Steve Parsons, John Truesdell, Tom Woerdehoff

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Ganum, Building Official Mattner, City Clerk Reitz

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Truesdell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL/AMEND OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion** by Commissioner Hurray, seconded by Commissioner Parsons to approve the agenda with the amendments to table item #5, Approval of February 16, 2023, minutes until the next meeting, and to switch the order of Old Business and New Business. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

This item was tabled until the next meeting to be held on April 20, 2023.

**6. HEARING OF CITIZENS**

- Tyler Aust, MSU representative, introduced himself to the Planning Commissioners and informed them of the educational opportunities available to them.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Review of request to enlarge a seasonal outdoor seating area at 9489 Red Arrow Highway (Getaway Grille & Cubbie Bar), submitted by Tom Ackerman.**  
Building Official Mattner explained the project, which includes the expansion of the outdoor patio area at the Getaway Grille & Cubbie Bar to the Commissioners. Owner Tom Ackerman addressed the Commissioners and expressed his desire to move forward with the project. Discussion was held. The Commissioners had no concerns and unanimously provided support to Mr. Ackerman and his business plans regarding the patio expansion.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Oak Wilt Public Education Seminar on February 18, 2023- Recap and discuss next steps.**  
The Oak Wilt Public Education Seminar was very well attended. City Manager Ganum informed the Commissioners that the city website had been updated to include the educational information regarding Oak Wilt. Members of the community who ask for information can be directed to the city's website. The total cost for the seminar was \$499.96.

**9. Staff Updates**

- a. **Courtyard Project**  
City Manager Ganum stated the project was going well. Several donations have been received. Postcards and press releases have been published. More donations are expected within the next few weeks. Ganum stated that there is an organizational meeting scheduled for March 17, 2023, to discuss details of the project.

**b. Toth Park Project**

City Manager Ganum stated that the final design displays were available for viewing. The public is encouraged to select their choice of designs. In the near future Parks Director Ball will have a survey available to the public and the Bridgman Elementary School students will also have an opportunity to "vote" on their designs.

**c. Housing Development Projects**

City Manager Ganum stated that there are currently three housing development projects in the City of Bridgman. Mr. Chris Lannert, developer of the project located on the corner of Lake Street and Church Street, updated the Commissioners on the progress of the 60-unit development.

City Manager Ganum informed the Commissioners that the duplex project located at 9955 Baldwin Street and owned by Mr. Schmidt, Berrien Springs LLC, is moving forward. Mr. Schmidt and his consultant are exploring new grant opportunities that may be available to help offset the cost of the project.

The Habitat for Humanity project property located on Vineyard Street is going to be surveyed and have an easement recorded in the near future. Ganum stated that the project is moving forward at this time.

**d. Shoreline Resilience Committee- Earth Day event planned and Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity Building Grant award announcement.**

City Manager Ganum reminded the Commissioners of the April 22, 2023, Earth Day Event to be held at the Weko Beach House. There will be a speaker at the event addressing coastal resiliency. Arrangements are being made to have a drone fly over an approximate five-mile stretch of the coastline to take an arial video. The Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity Building Grant award will be used to look at the city's zoning ordinances in regard to coastal communities.

**e. Other Projects**

Building Official Mattner updated the Commissioners on the Corewell Health project. He stated that the power challenges have been resolved and the job is officially out for bid. The project is moving forward.

Building Official Mattner informed the Commissioners that the upstairs of the meat market located at 4352 Lake Street in town is currently under renovations to accommodate apartments in the back.

The former Early Bird Restaurant located at 9735 Red Arrow Highway will have a fire suppression system installed to accommodate three (3) apartments upstairs.

Commissioners inquired about the status of the Dominion property located at 10300 Red Arrow Highway as there appears to be no progress. Mattner stated that the site plan review has expired. He is currently collaborating with Attorney Senica on a few changes before adopting the 2021 Property Maintenance Code. Once this Code is adopted it will give the city more flexibility in managing the issue at hand.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning Chair Truesdell thanked Commissioner Crocker and Commissioner Herrman for all their years of service. **Motion** by Commissioner Crocker, seconded by Commissioner Woerdehoff to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

  
Tom Woerdehoff, Secretary

  
Sheila Reitz, City Clerk