

CITY OF BATTLE CREEK
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING
10 North Division, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Minutes for September 8, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Commissioner Simpson at 4:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Simpson asked for a roll vote.

Comm. Simpson, present

Comm. Drozdowski, present

Comm. Davis, present

Comm. Sallee, absent

Comm. Thornton, present

Comm. Steinbrunner, absent

Comm. Case, present

Comm. LaCosse, absent

Staff Present: Travis Sullivan, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Melody Carlsen, Administrative Assistant, Adam Jenks, City Planner, Patrick Batterson, Assistant City Attorney.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of the August 11, 2025 meeting minutes.

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER DROZDOWSKI TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2025
MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THORNTON.**

ROLL VOTE: Commissioner Simpson asked everyone in favor to signify by saying “aye”.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, MOTION APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. H16-25 (160 N Washington Ave)

Petition for a Certificate of Appropriateness filed by Grace Health for a Notice to Proceed for the demolition of the main building located at 160 N Washington Ave., Parcel #7720-00-007-0.

Staff Presentation: Travis Sullivan presented the staff report H16-25.

Applicant Presentation: Chris Davis, Peter Chang, Scott Hutchings of Grace Health were present to speak and answer questions from Commissioners.

Questions by Commissioners:

Commissioner Simpson asked the applicant if they were aware that the house in question was located within a Historic District when it was purchased, if they could speak to the parking issues mentioned. Asked Staff if there was any information regarding the changes made to the house and if it has always been in a Historic District. Asked how long they have been looking at alternate parking.

Mr. Hutchings handed the Commission an updated map to showing their facilities and current parking.

Commissioner Case inquired to how long the proposed area would be kept as green space, and when the siding and windows were changed.

Commissioner Davis asked why other areas owned by Grace Health are not being developed first. Brought up a past demolition petition that the Commission did not approve. The house seemed to be in worse shape than the house in question today. Was the house in question bought on the open market or did they approach the past owner? Asked about another area to use as an entrance to alleviate some traffic in the front entrance.

Commissioner Drozdowski expressed concerns about the properties current state and function and if the use would better serve the community if it was turned into a parking lot. Asked what Grace Health would do if the petition was not approved.

Commissioner Thornton agreed with Commissioner Drozdowski and feels the need for parking is greater than someone trying to renovating the house into something else.

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER DROZDOWSKI TO APPROVE H16-25.
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THORNTON.**

ROLL VOTE: FOUR IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED. MOTION APPROVED.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF:

Travis Sullivan gave a Grant Agreement update and introduced the new City Planner, Adam Jenks.

Attorney Patrick Batterson asked Commissioners to state which criteria out of the four that they based their vote for H16-25 on. A roll was taken and responses were noted.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Simpson adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Submitted by: Melody Carlsen, Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant