



Learn How You Can Make A Difference Too! Get Involved!

Getting involved in City government can be as simple as volunteering to serve on one of the many citizen committees that work with City Council, the City Manager, and staff. These boards and commissions play a vital role in shaping the community's future and maintaining and improving its quality of life. By serving on these various bodies, city residents have the opportunity to truly "make a difference" in their community and give a citizen's point of view when discussing specific projects or issues.



Appointments to City boards, commissions, and advisory committees are typically made by the Mayor, subject to approval by the full City Council. Some state laws and local ordinances prescribe that some of these bodies have members who have certain experience or educational and professional certification. Generally, for most boards, the only prerequisite is to be a City resident.

Presented below are brief descriptions of the functions and activities of the City's various boards, commissions, and advisory committees of which there are currently vacancies. Meeting schedules, membership listings, meeting minutes and agendas can be found on the City's Web site at www.grandhaven.org.

Airport Board: 0 position(s). Recommends airport rules and regulations deemed necessary and consistent with the Charter and general ordinances of the City.

Audit Review Committee: 0 position(s). Reviews parameters of the audit with the auditors.

Board of Review: 0 position(s). Meets three times a year. March, July, and December, for the purposes of correcting any errors or omissions to the assessment and tax rolls.

Brownfield Redevelopment/Economic Development: 1 position(s). Membership on these two boards are identical. Charged to actively pursue the redevelopment of environmentally contaminated properties within the City of Grand Haven and assist in development of commercial and industrial properties within the City of Grand Haven.

Building Authority: 0 position(s). Basically used as a financing mechanism for City Council. It was incorporated mainly for the purpose of reconstructing the Central Business District parking lots but can be used for a multitude of projects.

Cemetery Board: 0 position(s). The Cemetery Board is authorized to declare such rules and regulations which it deems appropriate concerning decorations on lots and such other matters deemed pertinent to the care and custody of the cemetery.

Community Center Board: 1 position(s). This board is a citizen's advisory board that provides recommendations to City officials concerning the Community Center and Waterfront Stadium usage and improvements.

Compensation Commission: 1 position(s). This board was created to determine the salaries of all elected City officials; i.e., the City Council and the Board of Light and Power.

Construction Board of Appeals: 3 position(s). Hears and decides appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the building official relative to the application and interpretation of this code. These meetings are called as needed.

Harbor Board: 0 position(s). This is a citizen's advisory board, which provides input on issues regarding the usage and maintenance of the waterfront properties owned by the City of Grand Haven.

Historic Conservation: 4 position(s). The purpose of this board is to safeguard the heritage of the City of Grand Haven by preserving landmarks and sites that reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economical, political or architectural history.

Human Relations: 2 regular position(s), 1 student rep. position. The Human Relations Commission was created to encourage, promote and cause mutual understanding, sensitivity, awareness, and respect among all groups in the City and beyond, to prevent discrimination and disorder, and to give effect to the guarantee of equal rights for all.

Main Street DDA: 0 position(s). Members must have an interest in district and ratio of members within the district must be greater to out of district members. Concentrates on the vitality of the downtown area.

Musical Fountain: up to 6 position(s). Develops the technical operations of the Musical Fountain including program development, scheduling of programs, system maintenance, and technological improvements.

Parks & Recreation: 0 position(s). Make recommendations to City Council on the merits of requests from those who wish to utilize the park facilities. The Board also helps the City Administration set goals and priorities for improvements of recreational opportunities in the community.

Planning Commission: 1 position(s). The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing and rendering decisions on the majority of non-residential facility site plans.

Zoning Board of Appeals: 2 position(s). Meets, listens, and rules on variances to the Zoning Ordinance and interpretations brought to the board by residents, business owners and staff, and works with the Planning Commission to make sure the uses of districts established in the Master Plan are adhered to.

Many terms come due in June; however, openings can occur at any time due to other factors. If there are no positions open for which you are interested in, you can still fill the application out and the City Clerk's Office will keep the information on file for one year. To receive a complete listing of the City's Volunteer Boards & Commissions, please call the City Clerk's Office or visit our web site. Citizens interested in serving, may pick up an application at the City Clerk's office 616-847-4886, or print an application from our web site: www.grandhaven.org.