

Zoning Official
Grand Haven Community Development Department
11 N. Sixth St.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear Zoning Official:

I am a resident of the City of Grand Haven. Recently, I found out about the proposed development at 218 S. Harbor Dr., Grand Haven. The current plan for this building harms our city, and I am disappointed it has been approved in its current state.

As a resident of the city, the following are cause for concern:

1. Is the Intent of the WF-2 Waterfront Zoning to allow 3 story buildings “on” the sidewalk with a zero foot setback? Glass wall on the sidewalk?
2. The new building does not fit into the neighborhood by maintaining size, proportion, and building materials.
3. The building reaches the sidewalk and creates a streetscape which is undesirable.
4. Aesthetic and functional setbacks have not been clearly defined for the project in a way that is beneficial to the neighborhood.
5. The lighting plan is not clear.
6. The refuse removal plan for the proposed plan is inadequate.
7. Proximity to overhead high power line setbacks have not been addressed.
8. Parking requirements have not been adequately established.
9. Finally, a definition of retail which is both necessary and sufficient to limit developers from using the current loose definition of retail to develop projects does not exist. We need to clarify the broad definition of retail. Otherwise, developers will use the current definition without following the intent.

I am writing to you in the hopes that a more amenable solution will be provided for the developer and the citizens of Grand Haven. We understand the need to balance the owner’s property rights with his surrounding community. The current building plan does not fit with the neighborhood.

I love our city and would like it to remain beautiful. It is distressing that the waterfront area of our community would be treated with disregard due to the future ramifications of poor planning now.

I strongly oppose the current plan for development of 218 S. Harbor Dr. I hope you will act to ensure we keep Grand Haven beautiful.

Sincerely,