



Closing date extended on riverfront project

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The deadline for the purchase of the 20-acre parcel on Grand Haven's north end for the large Grand Landing residential/retail project has been extended two months, but officials are hopeful that both sides can close on the property sale before then.

During its Monday meeting, the Grand Haven City Council extended the closing deadline from July 15 to Sept. 15. According to City Manager Pat McGinnis, the extension was a precaution so the deadline would not expire prior to the next city council meeting on July 17. McGinnis said both sides are confident a closing can be accomplished well before the new Sept. 15 deadline.

McGinnis said there are several outstanding contingencies that must be addressed prior to closing, including necessary permits from the state Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an agreement with the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power.

"This is not a delay," McGinnis said. "It's simply an adjusted deadline."

Developers of the \$70 million Grand Landing – Grand Landing LLC – are hoping to close on the property this summer and hope construction on the project's first phase, known as "The Village," could begin this summer and be completed by spring or early summer 2007. The Village will include stores on the first floor of plaza-style buildings and two levels of condos above. It also will include a cluster of retail stores, condos and restaurants.

The development team still awaits a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for changes in the Grand River Channel related to development of a riverfront outdoor amphitheater.

The centerpiece of the development will be the 105 -room hotel and convention center, which is expected to go before the planning commission later this year. Construction on the hotel is slated to begin this fall and be completed by 2008.

Other highlights of Grand Landing include a nine -story office tower with penthouse condos, the outdoor amphitheater and an extension of the boardwalk that will connect the development to the downtown and waterfront districts.

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