



City Council Agenda Item Report

FROM: Ryan Cummins, City Manager

MEETING DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Additional Historic Marker at Coghlin Park

DESCRIPTION:

For the last few years, the Saugatuck Douglas History Center (SDHC) has been working on a Historical Marker Project. The historical markers have been a huge success with high quality historical information being provided at various sites throughout the Tri-Community.

Last fall, the City Council and Historic District Commission approved new markers at Village Square and the west Chain Ferry landing. SDHC is requesting approval to install an additional historical marker at Coghlin Park. The SDHC advised the marker will share the history of the Pie Factory site. It will also interpret the history of the Blue Tempo jazz club (once located across from Lake St from the SCA) which was a significant LGBTQIA+ site from 1960-1975.

The SDHC has talked with the Saugatuck Center for the Arts (SCA) about removing the existing panel sign and placing the marker in its location. The SCA staff are supportive.

The markers will be the same design, size, and material as previous markers. Attached are details provided by the SDHC.

The DPW Superintendent reviewed and has no major concerns. He noted they may need to re-route irrigation if the sign is too obstructive.

BOARD/COMMISSION REVIEW:

Details will be reviewed with the Parks and Public Works Committee.

The Historic District Commission will need to approve.

BUDGET ACTION:

None. The History Center covers the cost of the project.

LEGAL REVIEW:

N/A at this time.

SAMPLE MOTION:

Motion to approve the additional historic marker installation at Coghlin Park contingent upon Historic District Commission approval and final location details being approved by staff.

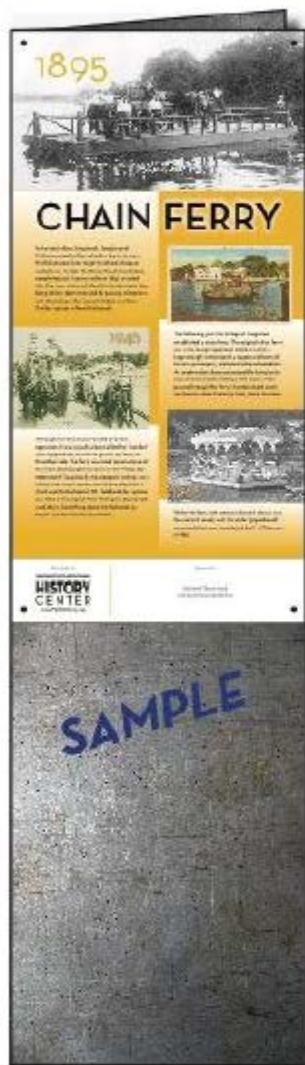
HISTORY LIVES HERE HISTORICAL MARKER PROJECT

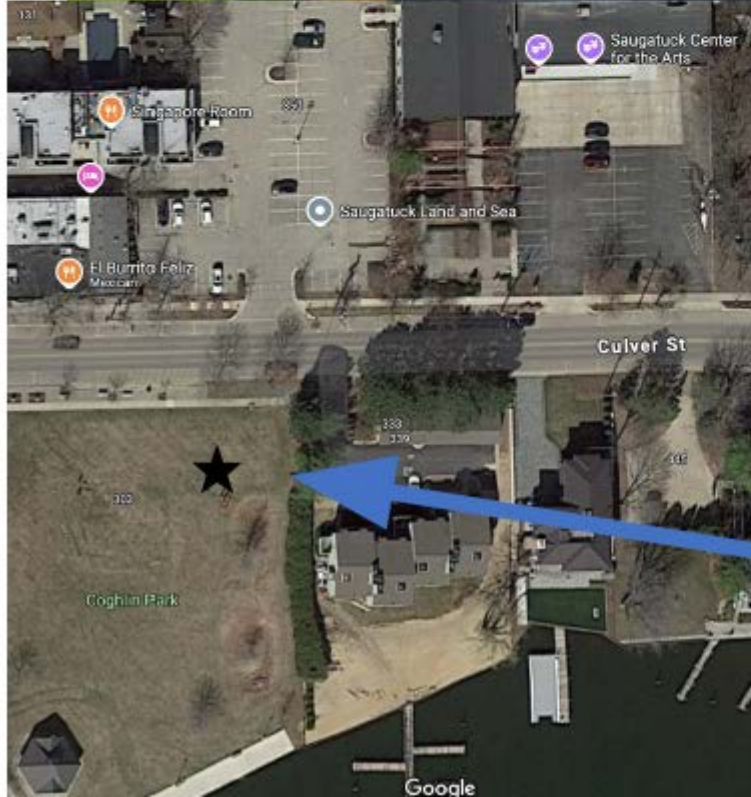
The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is launching a new historical marker program, placing permanent interpretive markers across Saugatuck-Douglas in the spring of 2022.

From logging to ship building to the Big Pavilion, each seven-foot tall steel marker will be erected on the spot where history happened. Rich in images and interpretive content, the markers will engage residents and visitors alike.

- V-shape design to minimize footprint, maximize area site lines, withstand wind, and allow ease of clean out by grounds crew.*
- Concrete base with bolt-on structure for easy ground crew mowing/trimming, and ease of replacement in future years.
- Two affixed history graphic panels on the two outer walls, 24" wide by 48" high, 35" off the ground for ease of reading.

*design and placement input provided by City Manager and DPS/DPW





**Coghlin Park
marker site**