

City of Kalamazoo  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
Minutes  
February 2, 2017  
FINAL

Second Floor, City Hall  
Community Room  
241W. South Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Members Present: Rachel Hughes-Nilsson, Chair; Josh Cook; Geoffrey Cripe, Gregory Milliken, Derek Wissner, Emily Greenman Wright

Members Excused: Charley Coss, Vice-Chair

City Staff: Rebekah Kik, City Planner; Rob Bauckham, Senior Development Planner; Amanda Coeur, Recording Secretary;

Guests: Lotta Jarnefelt, Director Kalamazoo County Planning Department; Sakhi Vyas; Marisa Laderach, Project Planner/GIS, Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Hughes-Nilsson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Planner Kik proceeded with roll call and determined that the aforementioned members were present.

**C. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA**

Planner Kik asked the Commission to switch the order of items H. and I. on the agenda. **Commissioner Greenman-Wright supported by Commissioner Wissner, moved approval of the February 2, 2017 Planning Commission agenda as amended. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Greenman Wright, supported by Commissioner Cook, moved approval of the December 1, 2016 Planning Commission minutes as presented. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**E. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**F. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**G. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Regarding non-agenda items)**

None

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Kalamazoo County Master Plan Project Update**

Ms. Jarnefelt presented to the Commission information on the planned update to the Kalamazoo County Master Plan. She gave an overview of the Kalamazoo County Planning Commission, and indicated that one of their goals is to review and comment on local master plans and how the plans interact with the neighboring communities. The County Planning Commission also reviews all PA116 Applications.

The County's master plan has not been updated since 1970. The County planning staff and consultants have created a generalized county-wide zoning map, and will also be creating a county-wide future land use plan. The County is currently conducting an inventory of the status of the various community master plans. The County's consultant has written one page summaries on all of the plans and will present them at each of the upcoming local planning commission meetings. One major reason to pursue a countywide update to the master plan is because some grants fund programs require an updated county plan for the applicants. Kalamazoo County's plan will be modeled after the Grand Traverse County Master Plan. A website has been created for this project and the web address is: <http://www.kalcountymasterplan.org>.

Ms. Laderach shared with the Planning Commission that a socioeconomic dashboard will be included in the master plan, which will offer useful information about each municipality. Commissioners praised Ms. Jarnefelt and her staff for the creation of the dashboard as this will be a necessary information tool to serve communities.

Commissioners Cripe and Wissner commented on watershed plans within the county, and asked about a completion date for the master plan update. Ms. Jarnefelt stated the plan would include information on watersheds in the county and it should be completed by July.

### **2. Recommendations from Nominating Committee**

Planner Bauckham gave an overview of the six candidates that were interviewed by the Nominating Committee. There are currently two openings on the commission and one more that will occur at the end of March. The Nominating Committee has agreed to offer a pool of four candidates to the Mayor for final appointment.

Chair Hughes-Nilsson spoke on behalf of the committee; she shared an overview of the qualities of candidate Sakhi Vyas, James Pitts, Alfonzo Espinsosa, and Cory Smith. .

**Commissioner Cook, supported by Commissioner Greenman Wright, moved to send candidates Sakhi Vyas, James Pitts, Alfonzo Espinsosa, and Cory Smith to the Mayor for consideration for filling three positions on the Planning Commission. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

## **H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Planner Kik offered an Imagine Kalamazoo project update. Over 3,000 residents have engaged in the process thus far.

She then invited the Commission to give their input on the current land use maps for the community. She stated she would like to know where the Commission thought the direction of the land use in the city was

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going. The commissioners were asked to first identify areas of the city that are changing, and what areas are not.

The Commission performed this exercise and Planner Kik collected the maps for use within the Imagine Kalamazoo process.

**J. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None

**K. CITY PLANNER'S REPORT**

None

**L. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS**

None

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Rebekah Kik,  
City Planner  
Community Planning & Development