

**City of Oak Park, Michigan  
Planning Commission**

**By-Laws and Rules of Procedure**

**1. Authority**

These by-laws and rules of procedure are adopted by the city of Oak Park (Oakland County) Planning Commission (hereinafter called the Commission) pursuant to Public Act 285 of 1931, as amended.

**2. Officers**

**2.1 Selection**

- a. The officers of the Planning Commission shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary selected from the general membership of the Commission.
- b. The election of all officers shall occur at the Commission's first regular meeting in April following City Council appointments or reappointments.
- c. Any member nominated for an office on the Commission shall have served on the Commission for at least one year.
- d. Nominations of members for an office shall be by a current member of the Commission during the meeting when elections are held.
- e. All nominations shall be seconded by a roll call vote, if there is only one (1) nominee for an office, that nominee shall be assumed to be unanimously elected.
- f. All elections shall be conducted by a roll call vote. If there is only one (1) nominee for an office, that nominee shall be assumed to be unanimously elected.
- g. To be elected to an office, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes of the full Planning Commission.
- h. All terms of office shall be for one year.
- i. A member of the Planning Commission may serve in the same office of the Commission for any number of terms.
- j. Neither the Mayor, Councilperson, nor the City Manager shall serve as the Chairperson of the Commission

## 2.2 Resignation of Officers

- a. An officer may resign his/her office by submitting a letter to the Commission addressed to the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as appropriate.
- b. The resignation from office will not become effective until acted upon and accepted by the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

## 2.3 Duties of the Officers

### a. The **Chairperson** Shall:

1. preside at all meetings and shall conduct all meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, (Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended), and the rules provided herein.
2. Clearly state the issues before the Commission
3. As appropriate, act as liaison between the Commission and the planning staff, consultants, and all other pertinent agencies or agents of the City of Oak Park and, in doing so shall utilize proper administrative/management channels of authority.
4. Reserve his/her opinions on an issue until the other members of the commission who so wish have spoken on the issue.
5. Attend all City Council meeting which include a planning issue or send another member of the commission as his representative. The Councilperson appointed to the Planning Commission shall normally serve in this capacity, on behalf of the Chairperson.

### b. The **Vice Chairperson** shall:

1. Act for the Chairperson when needed at Commission, City Council, or other meetings.
2. Assist the chairperson in recognizing members who may wish to speak.
3. shall succeed to the office of chairperson in the event of a vacancy in that office, in which case the Commission shall select a successor to the office of Vice Chairperson at the earliest practical time.

### c. The **Secretary** shall:

1. Act for the chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at Commission, City Council and other meeting

2. Direct the Commission's recording secretary to summarize pertinent correspondence received by the Commission which deals with an issue before the Commission.
3. be responsible for the accuracy of the Commission's approved minutes by placing his/her signature on a copy of the minutes as approved.

**2.4** The General Membership shall:

- a. Not speak until recognized by the Chairperson
- b. Serve on special committees as appointed by the Chairperson

**3. Meetings**

**3.1** Meeting Notices

- a. All meetings of the Commission shall be posted at the City Hall according to the Open Meetings Act.
- b. The notice shall include the date, time and place of the meeting.
- c. Notice of any change in the date or time of a meeting shall be posted in the manner required by the Open Meetings Act at least 18 hours in advance.

**3.2** Regular meetings and Regularly Scheduled Special Meetings

- a. Regular meetings of the Commission shall be held monthly in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on the second Monday of the month.
- b. Special meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the Chairperson, with the approval of a quorum of the Commission, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.
- c. When a regular meeting date or a special meeting date falls on or near a legal holiday, the Commission shall select a suitable alternate meeting date in the same month in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

**3.3** Quorum

- a. the presence of five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum of the commission.
- b. If a quorum is not present, the members of the Commission may discuss matters of interest, but can take no action until the next regular or special meeting.

- c. All public hearings without a quorum shall be continued to and scheduled for the next regular or special meeting; notice of which shall be posted at least 18 hours in advance in the manner required by the Open Meetings Act [(MCL 15.265 , MSA 4.1800 (25))].

### 3.4 Public Hearings

- a. Public Hearings shall be scheduled and due notice given in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of these By-laws and Rules of Procedure.

- b. The order of presentation shall be as follows:

Petitioner  
Commission Consultants/Planning Staff  
Correspondence  
Public Testimony  
Commission Discussion/Decision

- c. The petitioner shall limit his/her remarks or presentation to 10 minutes
  - 1. the Chairperson shall instruct the petitioner to sum up his/her remarks when the Chairperson or Commission members feel that he/she has strayed from the pertinent facts, has become repetitive or is being disrespectful to the commission.
  - 2. If the petitioner has a spokesperson, that spokesperson may make the main presentation and the petitioner may also speak, but both speakers shall not exceed the time limit of this rule without permission of the Chairperson.
- d. Any member of the public wishing to address the Commission during a public hearing shall have their name, address, and position on the issue under discussion.
  - 1. The general public shall limit their remarks to 3 minutes each.
  - 2. All speakers shall address their remarks to the Chairperson only.
  - 3. No person shall be permitted to speak twice on the same issue until everyone wishing to be heard has had a chance to speak. Persons will only be recognized a second time if they have something new to add that has not already been brought to the commission's attention.
  - 4. No person, other than commission member, city consultant, or city staff shall be allowed to address an issue for public hearing following the closing of that public hearing by the Chairperson.

### 3.5 Motions

- a. All motions shall be restated by the Chairperson before a vote is taken.
- b. The name of the maker and supporters of the motions shall be recorded.

### 3.6 Voting

- a. An affirmative vote of five (5) Commission members shall be required for the approval of any requested action or motion placed before the Commission (except Master Plan decisions require six (6) affirmative votes).
- b. Adoption of amendments to the Master Plan in the City of Oak Park require the affirmative vote of six (6) members of the Commission.
- c. Voting shall ordinarily be by voice vote; provided however, that a roll call vote shall be required if requested by any Commission members, directed by the Chairperson, or regarding amendments to the Master Plan of the City of Oak Park.
- d. Roll call votes shall be recorded.
- e. Any member of the Commission shall be excused from discussing or voting on any issue in which that member has a financial interest other than the common public interest, or some other stated conflict of interest.
- f. Any member of the Commission shall be excused from voting on any issue concerning that member's conduct.
- g. On all other issues, each member who is present is required to vote unless excused by the unanimous consent of the remaining members present.

### 3.7 Order of Business:

- a. A written agenda for all meetings shall be prepared and followed: The order of business shall be the following:
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Approval of Agenda
  4. Approval of Minutes
  5. Communications/Correspondence
  6. Public Hearings
  7. Consent Agenda – Removals and Approvals
  8. Matters for Consideration (action items)
    - a. Old Business
    - b. New Business
  9. Matters for Discussion from Commissioners
  10. Public Comment on items not scheduled for public hearing

## 11. Adjournment

Note: the consent agenda shall consist of non-controversial items requiring Commission action that have already received Preliminary Approval and have received a recommendation for Final Approval from all appropriate city departments, staff, and consultants.

- b. A written agenda for special meetings shall be prepared and followed, however the form as enumerated above shall not be necessary.

### 3.8 Public Comment on Items Not Scheduled for Public Hearing

- a. During this portion of the Agenda, a member of the audience may address the Commission on any issue which is not scheduled for a public hearing on that agenda.
- b. A member of the audience speaking during this portion of the agenda shall limit his/her remarks to three minutes.

### 3.9 Correspondence/Communications

No matters for consideration shall be accepted after the agenda packets have been delivered unless the Commission finds that it is of an emergency nature and must be acted on that night.

### 3.10 Rules of Order

All meetings of the commission shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted parliamentary procedure, as governed by "Roberts Rules of Order."

### 3.11 Beginning and Ending Times

- a. All Commission meetings shall begin promptly at 7:00 pm
- b. All commission meetings shall adjourn no later than 10:30 pm unless:
  - 1. There are petitions remaining on the agenda
  - 2. Planning staff needs direction on a matter that cannot wait until the next meeting, or
  - 3. The Commission votes to continue the meeting

Motions to continue a meeting must include a specific ending time.

### 3.12 Site Plans

- a. No site plan shall be considered by the Commission unless the following conditions have been met by the Thursday preceding the meeting during which the site plan would normally be considered:
  1. The site plan includes all of the information required by the City of Oak Park Zoning Ordinance, as determined by the Community Development Department
  2. All site plan application data shall be submitted to the Community Development Department in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Site Plan Review and Approval Standards at least two weeks before the Planning Commission meeting at which the applicant wishes to be heard.
- b. The Commission reserves the right to limit its agenda so that meetings can end at the established adjournment time. In this regard, a petitioner for Site Plan Review has no right to be heard or to be placed on the agenda of the first possible Planning Commission meeting. Items eligible for Consent Agenda shall not be postponed however.
- c. No site plan will be considered during special meetings established for planning purposes only

### 3.13 Unnecessary Omission

No matters for consideration which otherwise meets the requirements of these By-laws and Rules of Procedure may be omitted by the Planning Commission from the agenda for more than one (1) meeting (excluding special meetings established for planning purposes only). That is, except through the fault of the petitioner, any item properly submitted for Planning Commission review must be noticed for, and considered at the second meeting which it is eligible.

### 3.14 Special Planning Meetings

- a. The commission may hold special meetings for planning purposes only.
- b. Special meetings may be on a date which is not a regular meeting date.
- c. Notification of such special meetings shall be in accordance with Sections 3 and 5 of these by-laws and Rules of Procedure
- d. Special meetings may be conducted with another agency of the City.

3.15 Zoning Ordinance Amendments

All requests for Zoning Ordinance Review and /or revision shall be addressed to the Planning commission for determination and recommendation to the City Council.

**4. Minutes**

4.1 The Commission minutes shall be prepared by the Planning Staff person so designated by the Planning Commission or its delegate.

4.2 The minutes shall contain the following:

- a. a synopsis of the meeting
- b. a complete restatement of all motions and resolutions, and a complete record of all transactions, finds, and determinations.
- c. a record of the outcome of Commission voice votes and a recording of roll call votes.
- d. a complete statement of the conditions or recommendations made on any action, and
- e. a record of attendance.

4.3 The minutes of the Commission including all attached communications, actions, and resolutions shall be deposited with the City Clerk. Proposed minutes shall be available for public inspection by eight business days after the meeting to which the minutes refer, and approved minutes shall be available by five (5) business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved. Corrections in the minutes shall be made not later than the next meeting after the meeting to which they refer and shall be made available no later than the next meeting after correction. [MCL 15.269; MSA 4.1800 (19)].

**5. Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act Provisions**

5.1 All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public and held in a place available to the general public

5.2 All deliberations and decisions of the Commission shall be made at a meeting open to the public.

5.3 A person shall be permitted to address a hearing of the Commission under the rules established in subsection 3.4 and to address the Commission concerning non-hearing matters under the rules established in subsection 3.7 to the extent that they are applicable.

5.4 A person shall not be excluded from a meeting of the Commission except for breach of the peace committed at the meeting.



5.5 All records, files, publications, correspondences, and other materials are available to the public for reading, copying, and other purposes as governed by the Freedom of Information Act.

## 6. **AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws and Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Commission by a concurring vote pursuant to subsection 3.6 during any regular meeting, provided that all members have received an advance copy of the proposed amendments at least three (d) days prior to the meeting at which such amendments are to be considered.

Amendments:

September 11, 1989

June 14, 1993

June 9, 2014

November 14, 2016