

Fruitland Township Planning Commission Bylaws

The following rules of procedure are hereby adopted by the Fruitland Township Planning Commission to facilitate the performance of its duties as outlined in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, as amended. Further regulations regarding the creation, powers, and duties of the Planning Commission are found in Article I of the Fruitland Township Planning Commission Ordinance entitled “Creation of the Planning Commission”.

SECTION 1: Officers/Required Representatives

- A. Selection and Tenure - At the first regular meeting each April, the planning commission shall select from its membership a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary. All officers shall serve a term of one year, or until their successors are selected and assume office, except as noted in C, below. All officers shall be eligible for re-election for consecutive terms for the same office.
- B. Chairperson - The chairperson shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees and perform such other duties as may be ordered by the planning commission. The member of the planning commission who is also a member of the Fruitland Township Board shall not serve as the Chairperson.
- C. Vice Chairperson - The vice chairperson shall act in the capacity of the chairperson in his/her absence. In the event the office of chairperson becomes vacant, the vice chairperson shall succeed to this office for the unexpired term, and the planning commission shall select a successor to the office of vice chairperson for the unexpired term. The member of the planning commission who is also a member of the Fruitland Township Board shall not serve as Vice Chairperson.
- D. Township Board Representative - The township board representative shall present the recommendations of the planning commission as required by the zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance or other ordinance to the township board prior to their consideration of such request.
- E. Zoning Board of Appeals Representative - The planning commission representative to the zoning board of appeals shall report the actions of the zoning board of appeals to the planning commission and update the zoning board of appeals on actions by the planning commission that relate to the functions and duties of the zoning board of appeals.
- F. The Township will Provide Staff as Recording Secretary - The recording secretary shall execute documents in the name of the planning commission, perform the duties hereinafter listed below, and shall perform such other duties as the planning commission may determine and those listed below:

1. Minutes - The recording secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a permanent record of the minutes of each meeting and shall have them recorded in suitable permanent records maintained by the township clerk. The minutes shall contain a synopsis of the meeting, including a complete restatement of all motions and record of votes, conditions or recommendations made on any action and record of attendance.
 2. Correspondence - The recording secretary shall be responsible for issuing formal written correspondence with other groups or persons, as directed by the planning commission. All communications, petitions, reports or other written materials received by the recording secretary shall be brought to the attention of the planning commission.
 3. Attendance - The recording secretary shall be responsible for maintaining an attendance record for each planning commission member and report those records annually to the planning commission for inclusion in the annual report to the township board. The secretary shall report any member who has missed three regular meetings in a row to the Fruitland Township Board of Trustees.
 4. Notices - The recording secretary shall issue such notices as may be required by the planning commission.
- G. Secretary - The secretary shall act in the capacity of the recording secretary in his/her absence.

SECTION 2: Meetings

- A. Regular Meetings - The planning commission shall hold monthly meetings as required on the first Thursday of each month (effective: September 3, 2015) and by resolution shall determine the time and place of such meetings. Other meetings may be held as necessary. When a regular meeting falls on a legal holiday or upon a day resulting in a conflict, the planning commission shall, if possible, select a suitable alternate meeting date in the same month as the originally scheduled meeting.

Notice of regular scheduled planning commission meetings shall be posted at the principal township office within 10 days after the planning commission's first meeting in each fiscal year in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

- B. Special Meetings - Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or upon written request to the recording secretary by at least two members of the planning commission. The business the planning commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. All costs of special meetings held to consider requests of applicants for approvals

under the zoning ordinance (or for such other purposes as may be necessary) shall be paid by the applicant for such requests.

Notice of special meetings shall be given to the members of the planning commission at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting. Such notice shall state the purpose, time and location of the special meeting and shall be posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

- C. Public Records - All meetings, minutes, records, documents, correspondence and other materials of the planning commission shall be open to public inspection in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, except as may otherwise be provided by law.
- D. Conduct of Meetings - The rules given in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed in conducting the meetings of the planning commission.
- E. Quorum - Four of a seven-member planning commission shall constitute a quorum for transacting business and taking official action for all matters. Whenever a quorum is not present, those present may adjourn the meeting to another time and day, in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, or hold the meeting to consider the matters on the agenda. No action shall be taken at a meeting at which a quorum is not present.
- F. Voting - An affirmative vote of the majority of the planning commission membership is required to adopt any part of the master plan or amendments to the plan (MCL 125.3801 et. seq.). Unless required by statute, other actions or motions placed before the planning commission may be adopted by a majority vote of the membership in attendance, as long as a quorum is present. Voting shall be by voice vote; a roll call vote shall be required if requested by any commission member or directed by the chairperson. All planning commission members, including the chairperson, shall vote on all matters, but the chairperson shall vote last.
- G. Agenda - The chairperson shall be responsible for preparing an agenda for planning commission meetings. The order of business for meetings shall be as follows:
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Pledge
 - 3. Welcome Guests
 - 4. Approval of Agenda
 - 5. Approval of Minutes

6. Public Comment
7. Scheduled Public Hearings
8. Other Matters to be reviewed by the Planning Commission
9. New Business
10. Old Business
11. Planning Commission Members Comments
12. Planning/Zoning Updates
13. Adjournment

H. Public Hearings - All public hearings held by the planning commission must be held as part of a regular or special meeting of the planning commission. The following rules of procedure shall apply to public hearings held by the planning commission:

1. Chairperson opens the public hearing and announces the subject.
2. Chairperson summarizes the procedures/rules to be followed during the hearing.
3. Township staff review and report.
4. Applicant presents the main points of the application.
5. Persons speaking regarding the application are recognized.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to speak, the chairperson may elect to limit the time permitted for each person to speak, except that the applicant may be permitted additional time as the chairperson allows. The chairperson may also elect to allow persons to speak only once, until all persons have had the opportunity to speak, at which time the chairperson, in his/her discretion, may permit additional comments.

All comments by the public, staff and the planning commission shall be directed to the chairperson. All comments shall be related to the land use request; unrelated comments shall be ruled out of order.

6. Chairperson closes the public hearing and returns to the regular/special meeting.
7. Planning commission begins deliberation and arrives at a decision.

SECTION 3: Duties of the Planning Commission

The planning commission shall perform the following duties:

- A. Take such action on petitions, staff proposals and township board requests for amendments to the zoning ordinance as required.
- B. Take such action on petitions, staff proposals and township board requests for amendments to the master land use plan as required.
- C. Prepare and adopt bylaws for the transaction of business, and keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations.
- D. Prepare an annual report to the township board.
- E. Prepare an annual work budget, to be included in the annual report.
- F. Take such actions as are required by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended and the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended.
- G. Review subdivision and condominium proposals and recommend appropriate actions to the township board.
- H. Prepare special studies and plans, as deemed necessary by the planning commission or township board and for which appropriations of funds have been approved by the township board, as needed.
- I. Attend training sessions, conferences, or meetings as needed to properly fulfill the duties of planning commissioner and for which appropriations of funds have been approved by the township board, as needed.
- J. Perform other duties and responsibilities or respond as requested by any township board or commission.
- K. The Planning Commission, assisted by Township Staff, may prepare annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP) if so directed by the Township Board as part of the Township budget process. The CIP shall show those public structures and improvements in their general order of priority that will be needed or desirable and can be undertaken within the ensuing six year period. The CIP shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the Township Board if prepared by the Planning Commission.

SECTION 4: Duties of the Zoning Administrator

- A. The planning commission shall be assisted by the zoning administrator in performing the planning commission's duties, as noted in Section 3.
- B. The zoning administrator shall be responsible for the professional and administrative work in coordinating the functions of the planning commission.
- C. The zoning administrator shall:
 - 1. Accept applications for matters to be reviewed by the planning commission and ensure that such applications are complete.
 - 2. Forward application materials to the planning commission at least one week prior to the meeting at which the matters will be considered.
 - 3. Inform the planning commission of administrative and enforcement actions taken on behalf of the township related to the zoning or other appropriate ordinance.
 - 4. Attend planning commission meetings.
 - 5. Prepare amendments to the zoning ordinance as directed by the planning commission.
 - 6. Meet with applicants, their representatives and/or other government agency officials as needed to properly perform project reviews for the planning commission.
 - 7. Perform other duties as directed by the planning commission.
- D. The planning commission may be assisted by other professional or township staff as needed, including the building inspector, township attorney, township engineer, planner, or other person or agency.

SECTION 5: Absences, Removals, Resignations, and Vacancies

- A. To be excused, members of the planning commission shall notify the recording secretary, planning commission chairperson or other planning commission member when they intend to be absent from a meeting. Failure to make this notification prior to the meeting shall result in an unexcused absence.
- B. Members of the planning commission may be removed by the township supervisor, after a hearing, with the approval of the township board.

- C. A member may resign from the planning commission by sending a letter of resignation to the township supervisor, township board or planning commission chairperson. A member shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed.
- D. Vacancies shall be filled by the township supervisor, with the approval of the township board, within one month of resignation or removal of a planning commission member. Successors shall serve out the unexpired term of the member being replaced

SECTION 6: Conflict of Interest

- A. Planning commission members may declare a conflict of interest and abstain from participating in a hearing or deliberations of a request when:
 - 1. A relative or other family member has a business or financial interest in any request for which the planning commission is asked to make a decision;
 - 2. The planning commission member has business or financial interest in the property involved in the request or has a business or financial interest in the applicant's company, agency, or association, or is an employer, employee, or business partner of the applicant;
 - 3. The planning commission member owns or has financial interest in neighboring property. For purposes of this section, a neighboring property shall include any property falling within the notification radius for the proposed development, as required by the zoning ordinance or other applicable ordinance, or
 - 4. There is a reasonable appearance of a conflict of interest, as determined by the planning commission member declaring such conflict.
- B. The planning commission member declaring a conflict of interest should state the nature of the conflict and whether he or she believes he or she could impartially consider the request before the commission. He or she should individually decide to abstain from any discussion or votes relative to the matter that is the subject of the conflict. If he or she prefers, the member declaring a conflict may ask the other planning commission members to decide if he or she should abstain, although this is not required. If this is requested, the remaining planning commission members shall vote on the abstention, and the results of the vote shall determine the participation of the member declaring a conflict. The member declaring a conflict may absent him/herself from the room in which the discussion takes place, unless doing so would violate his or her constitutionally protected rights to participate. He or she should not make any presentations to the planning commission as a representative or opponent of the proposal.

SECTION 7: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting by a vote of a majority of the membership of the planning commission.