



**PLANNING COMMISSION
2017 Annual Report**

TO: Mayor Balice and Councilmembers
FROM: Chairman Lee and Planning Commissioners
DATE: March 1, 2018
RE: 2017 Planning Commission Annual Report

The City of Ionia Planning Commission is pleased to provide this Annual Report of its activities for calendar year 2017. This report is being submitted in fulfillment of Article II, Section 19 of Public Act 33 of 2008 (Michigan Planning Enabling Act) and pursuant to Section 6 of the Planning Commission's By-Laws and Rules of Procedure.

The Municipal Planning Enabling Act states that “a planning commission shall make an annual written report to the legislative body concerning its operations and the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body relating to planning and development.”

Calendar year 2017 proved to be a busy one for your Planning Commission. Of particular interest is the following:

Site Plan/Special Land Use Permit Reviews and Others

During 2017 the Planning Commission on reviewed the following site plans.

- **Library Street Reconstruction:** Assessed options for reconfiguring Library Street as part of the reconstruction of Library Street. Ultimately the Planning Commission opted for a one-way design that includes parking on both sides of Library Street. The project will be completed during Spring 2018.
- **Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act:** Participated in a training session regarding Michigan's new Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act and through-out the year continued to assess the pros and cons of “opting in”.

Ordinance Amendments

During 2017, the Planning Commission prepared and proposed the following amendment to the City Code:

- Ordinance No. 535: An amendment to the City’s official zoning map rezoning the properties located at 703 West Lincoln Avenue, 471 North State Street and 475 North State Street from R-1 One Family Residential to B-3 General Business District. The City Council ultimately accepted the Planning Commission’s recommendation regarding the rezoning by adopting Ordinance No. 535 at its August 5, 2017 meeting.

Master Plan - Update

Towards the end of 2017, the Planning Commission began the statutorily required process of reviewing and updating the City’s current Master Land Use Plan which was adopted September 12, 2012.

Looking Ahead to 2018

As the Planning Commission looks ahead to its tasks for 2018, items on the task list include:

- Continue and complete the statutorily required process of reviewing and updating the 2012 Master Plan.
- Begin implementing the short-term recommendations contained in the updated Master Plan.

2017 Planning Commission Members/Officers and Attendance

The Planning Commission held seven meetings during 2017.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Attended</u>
Dave Cook	7/7
Boomer Hoppough	3/7
Mark Jennings	6/7
Gordon Kelley	4/7
Tim Lee	6/7
Judy Swartz	2/4 (term began in June)
Chris Young	6/7

As approved by the Planning Commission at its February 14, 2018 regular meeting.