



**PLANNING COMMISSION  
2018 Annual Report**

TO: Mayor Balice and Councilmembers  
FROM: Chairman Lee and Planning Commissioners  
DATE: March 1, 2019  
RE: 2018 Planning Commission Annual Report

The City of Ionia Planning Commission is pleased to provide this Annual Report of its activities for calendar year 2018. 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 2018 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 2018 the Planning Commission reviewed the following site plans.

- *Plans for resurfacing Brooks, Chapman, Forest, Kaiser and West Fargo Streets.* The Commission reviewed the plans for resurfacing these streets and evaluated the current sidewalk system in this area and recommended enhancements.
- *New Library Proposal.* The Commission provided comments regarding the District Library's plans to construct a new library at the south east corner of the Adams Street/Steele Street intersection, subject to a voter approved millage.
- *Purks Parking Lot Construction.* The Commission granted site plan approval to Mark Purkey for the construction of a parking lot at 471/475 State Street to support his gas station/convenience store on West Lincoln Avenue. The parking lot will be finished during the 2019 construction season.

**Ordinance Amendments**

During every meeting held in 2018, the Planning Commission devoted a portion of the agenda to preparing the medical marihuana facilities amendment to the City Code. The Public Hearing on the proposed amendment was held at the January 2019 meeting with the amendment subsequently recommended for approval by the City Council.

**Master Plan - Update**

During 2018, the Planning Commission continued the statutorily required process of reviewing and updating the City’s current Master Land Use Plan which was adopted September 12, 2012. Significant progress was made in completing this review and update which will be completed during 2019.

The Planning Commission also reviewed and provided comments on the proposed Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2019-2024).

**Looking Ahead to 2019**

As the Planning Commission looks ahead to its tasks for 2019, 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.
- Provide input regarding the reconstruction of Steele Street particularly changes to the lane configuration between Adams Street and Dexter Street.

**2018 Planning Commission Members/Officers and Attendance**

The Planning Commission held ten meetings during 2018.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Attended</u>
Dave Cook	8/10
Mike Donaldson	3/6 (term began in July)
Boomer Hoppough	6/10
Mark Jennings	10/10
Gordon Kelley	8/10
Tim Lee	10/10
Judy Swartz	8/10

As approved by the Planning Commission at its February 13, 2019 regular meeting.