



Jackson County Planning Commission

Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC)
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2014 JCPC Annual Report

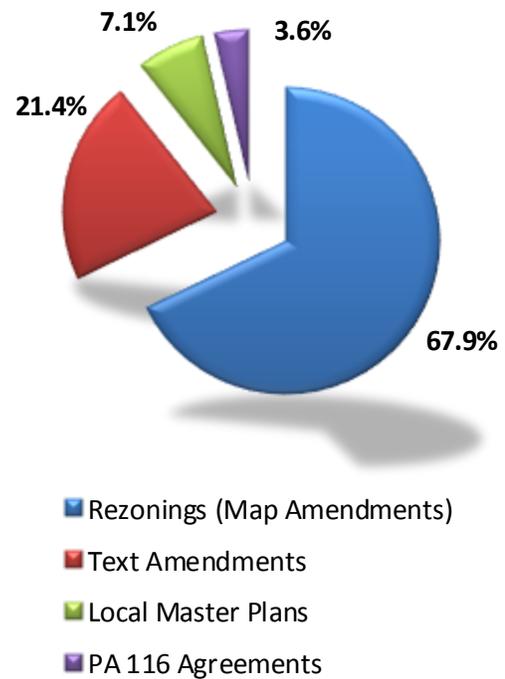
1. **2014 JCPC Membership & Officers.** Dr. Ted Beals, Ms. Nancy Hawley, Ms. Jennifer Morris, and Mr. Jonathan Williams served as the Commission's Members-at-Large during 2014. Commissioner Carl Rice, Jr. represented the County Board and Ms. Amy Torres represented the Industrial and Economic Interests of the County. Mr. Ted Hilleary, Mr. Jack Ripstra, and Mr. Jim Videto served the County's Educational, Environmental, and Agricultural Interests, respectively. Ms. Torres and Ms. Morris served as the Chair and Secretary of the JCPC, respectively.

2. **Immediate Responsibilities.** The Jackson County Planning Commission met for its first full year in 2014 and accomplished a lot during that time including, but not necessarily limited to, the following responsibilities:

a. **Coordinated Zoning.** A primary responsibility of the Planning Commission is to review and recommend action on proposed amendments to township zoning ordinances. The JCPC made recommendations regarding twenty-five (n=25) proposed zoning amendments in 2014. The majority of those amendments (n=19) were rezonings (i.e., map amendments) while the remainder (n=6) were text amendments.

b. **Coordinated Planning.** Another primary responsibility of the Commission is to review and provide feedback on municipal (i.e., city, village and township) master plans proposed within Jackson County as well as the master plans proposed by surrounding counties. The JCPC reviewed and commented upon two (n=2) proposed municipal master plans in 2014.

c. **Farmland Agreements.** A secondary responsibility of the Planning Commission is to review and make recommendations regarding Farmland and Open Space Preservation (PA 116) applications to pertinent Township Boards. The JCPC made a recommendation on one (n=1) application regarding the preservation of farmland and open space in 2014.



3. **Ultimate Goal and Objectives.** In the long-term, the Planning Commission seeks to coordinate planning throughout Jackson County while respecting the planning and zoning authority of municipal governments (i.e., the city, villages, and townships). This will be accomplished over time by:

a. **County Master Plan.** The Commission will develop a countywide master plan upon which it will base (in part) its recommendations regarding municipal master plans and township zoning amendments (i.e., rezonings and text amendments).

Towards that end, the JCPC utilized 2040 population projections made by the Michigan Department of Transportation for Jackson County to develop 5-year population projections countywide as well as for Metropolitan Jackson—which comprises the City of Jackson and the surrounding Urban Townships (i.e., Blackman, Leoni, Spring Arbor, and Summit)—and the Rural Townships, which include the Villages (i.e., Brooklyn, Cement City (partial), Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Parma, and Springport). The projections were utilized in the 2015-2019 edition of the *City of Jackson and Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan* and will be used for the 2015 amendment of the *Jackson County Solid Waste Management Plan* as well as the next edition of the *Jackson County Master Plan*.

b. **Workshops.** The JCPC will host/sponsor planning and zoning workshops open to Jackson County municipalities as opportunities arise.

In the spirit of this objective, staff provided a basic planning and zoning workshop at the request of Tompkins Township on October 21, 2014. The workshop, which was held in the Tompkins Township Hall, was open to public officials throughout Jackson County interested in planning and zoning.

c. **Policies.** The Planning Commission will also develop and promote policies which foster coordination and cooperation among municipalities whenever possible.

To commence this effort, the JCPC developed a draft memo regarding minimum demographic data requirements for master plans, based upon their desired level of comprehensiveness. Staff has already utilized this memo to guide several municipal planning commissions in choosing the demographics to be included in their master planning efforts.

4. **Meetings.** The County Planning Commission meets on the second (2nd) Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chambers on the 5th Floor of the County Tower Building.

*Submitted on the behalf of the Jackson County Planning Commission
Grant E. Bauman, AICP, JCPC Staff and Recording Secretary*