



# Jackson County Planning Commission

Staffed by the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC)

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## MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2023

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Chambers • Jackson County Tower Building • Jackson, Michigan

**Members Present:** Ms. Nancy Hawley, At Large; Mr. Ted Hilleary, Education; Mr. Corey Kennedy, Jackson County Board of Commissioners; Mr. Curt Cole; Ms. Mary Wolcott

**Members Absent:** Ms. Pat Gallagher; Mr. Jim Minnick, Jr.; Mr. Jim Videto

**Staff Present:** Mr. Zack Smith, R2PC.

**Others Present:** Nick LaPorte; Brad Essex

Item 1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.** Chair Hawley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Those in attendance rose and joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. **Public Comment.** None.

Item 3. **Approval of Minutes.** Comm. Hilleary made a motion, seconded by Comm. Wolcott, to **approve** the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Item 4. **Approval of the Agenda.** Comm. Cole made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kennedy, to **approve** the October 12, 2023, meeting agenda as presented. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Item 5. **Request(s) for Review, Comment, and Recommendation.**

a. **Consideration of Township Zoning Amendment(s).**

(1) **CZ | #23-16 | Summit Township**

Staff referred to a report regarding a rezoning request for 800 E. McDevitt, the former Vandercook Lake School. Staff recommended approval of the rezoning application.

Discussion: Comm. Hawley stated that the language used by the Summit Township Zoning Board was very clear. Comm. Kennedy expressed that the exact plan presented was kind of vague but noted that the lots touch other commercial

property. Comm. Wolcott said that there is a lot of commercial property around it, and one abutting property is commercial. Comm. Hawley was happy that people were going to be doing anything with the old school building.

Nick LaPorte spoke on behalf of the development. He said that the idea is for each classroom to be its own business. He referenced Kerrytown in Ann Arbor as a model. Mr. LaPorte said that he was from Vandercook Lake and that members of his family had taught there.

Comm. Kennedy made a motion to recommend **approval**, supported by Comm. Cole. *Commissioners approved the motion unanimously.*

- (2) **CZ | #23-17 | Henrietta Township** Staff referred to a report regarding a proposed text amendment to various sections dealing with outdoor lighting of the Henrietta Township zoning ordinances. Staff recommended approval of the text amendment.

Discussion: Comm. Minnick submitted a question about how much light the new ordinance would allow. Comm. Hawley said that is why the language uses watts or equivalent. She also pointed out that the ordinance specifies warm light so there would be less blue light which is now considered a problem. Comm. Cole liked how it specified measurement in Kelvins. Comm. Cole also noted that Comm. Minnick wanted to point out the possibility that someone could use a clear shade on the light to get around the restrictions of the ordinance

Comm. Kennedy made a motion to recommend **approval** the text amendments, supported by Comm. Cole. *Commissioners approved the motion unanimously.*

- b. **Consideration of Master Plan(s).** None.
- c. **Farmland & Open Space Preservation Program (PA 116) application(s).** None.

Item 6. **Other Business.**

- a. **Unfinished Business.** None.
- b. **New Business.** None.
- c. **Notices.** Comm. Hawley noted that it was nice to know Sylvan Township is writing a new master plan.

Item 7. **Public Comment.** None.

Item 8. **Commissioner Comment.** Comm. Kennedy informed the board that two people have applied for the open Commission seat. He also mentioned that the board would likely see something from the Grass Lake Solar Farm in the future

Item 9. **Adjournment.** Chair Hawley adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ZS' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Zack Smith, R2PC