

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MARQUETTE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
April 18, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Marquette City Planning Commission was duly called and held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: W. Premeau, M. Rayner, K. Clegg, C. Gottlieb, S. Lawry, Chair S. Mittlefehldt, D. Fetter, A. Andres, and Vice-Chair N. Williams

Absent: none

AGENDA

It was moved by M. Rayner, seconded by A. Andres, and carried 9-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

MINUTES

The minutes of 03-21-23 were approved by consensus with the correction of an error pointed out by S. Lawry.

TRAINING

A. Article – “Creating a Solid Foundation for Zoning: The Importance of Future Land Use Plans” - Planning and Zoning News, Aug. 2008

City Planner and Zoning Administrator D. Stensaas stated that this article explains several points about why the Future Land Use Map and Community Master Plan is so important to the zoning districts and having a legally valid zoning ordinance or land development code. He also provided a summary of the article and related the content to the work that the Planning Commission and staff are going to be doing in considering updates to the Future Land Use Map and Proposed Zoning Map that are part of the Community Master Plan, and that the presentation he did several months previously using the two large maps in the Commission Chambers was an attempt to explain this relationship of land planning to zoning and in particular to the establishment of zoning districts.

WORK SESSION

A. Community Master Plan – Land Use and Transportation Issues

D. Stensaas stated again that he isn't prepared to discuss much tonight about the land use issues, as staff has had some setbacks on the completion of assembling the data, but that this staff is working through verifying the land use information by parcels and as a percentage of use by zoning category and throughout the city. He said that there are about 7,000 parcels to cross-verify information on with the Assessing office, and that should be assembled and ready for a work session at the next meeting in May.

He said that he would thus like to turn to the document in the agenda packet which addresses several transportation issues that staff has identified, and he handed out an updated version of the document. He also said that after the discussion and any additions and changes that the Planning Commission wishes to make to the document, staff will present this document to the consulting team that is working on the Community Master Plan for their consideration.

The Planning Commission and staff discussed the document in full and several questions were asked and discussed, and some suggestions were made to be added to the list of concerns. Those included:

- Should the CMP address multi-use path user conflicts with e-bikes and e-mobility devices?
- Bike lanes and “sharrows” on N. Third St. should be repainted in absence of negative safety data.
- It appears that winter sidewalk maintenance has decreased, and that street maintenance has not improved in recent years despite the need for improvements. It was recommended that the City convene workshops on winter maintenance issues to find some way to make progress.
- The S. Marquette highway corridor is an area that needs study and some type of intervention or countermeasures that will help pedestrians and cyclists cross the highway south of Genesee St.
- The 100 block of W. Baraga St. is extremely wide and could benefit from redesign. D. Stensaas stated the “Baraga Ave. Place Plan” done for the DDA six or so years ago recommended a boulevard with angle parking be developed.
- On-street parking on N. Front St. does not extend north of Ohio St. – could it?
- The status of MarqTran creating the Third St.-University Center-Hospital transit loop that the City has been pursuing for many years.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS

W. Premeau stated:

One way you could solve the traffic problems on Front St. is to create a true US-41 bypass, and bypass all these little towns like they did all over the country, and you’ll see how happy people will be when nobody comes to town.

S. Mittlefehldt asked if the consultants for the Community Master Plan Renewal Project are working with the campus master planning group at NMU to make sure that what is in the Community Master Plan is consistent with Northern’s plans since they have a lot of ideas about future land use in the northern part of the city.

D. Stensaas said that there will be a rezoning request at the next meeting and members should review the zoning and rezoning content of Chapter 3 of the Community Master Plan prior to the next meeting if they are not familiar with it.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair S. Mittlefehldt at 8:10 p.m.

David Stensaas

Prepared by: D.Stensaas, City Planner and Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission Staff Liaison