

City of Kalamazoo
PLANNING COMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2026
FINAL

Members Present: Michelle Audette-Bauman; Thomas Kostrzewa; Zack Wilson; Brian Pittelko; Jennifer Swan; Mitchell Curtiss; Wendell Tolber; * Roland Bissonnette

Members Excused: Christine Dascenzo

City Staff: Bobby Durkee, Assistant City Planner; Beth Cheeseman, Executive Administrative Assistant

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioner Pittelko called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Planner Durkee proceeded with roll call and determined there was a quorum.

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

Commissioner Curtiss, seconded by Commissioner Kostrzewa, moved approval of the March 25, 2026 Planning Commission agenda as presented. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Commissioner Bissonnette entered the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Swan, moved approval of the February 5, 2026 minutes as presented. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

D. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planner Durkee announced that the Planning Commission Secretary would sign approved minutes moving forward. He would like to get a workflow established for this process.

Planner Durkee stated that all three of the public hearings scheduled previously will be on the April 8, 2026 agenda.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

None.

G. REPORTS:

1. City Planner's Report

Planner Durkee shared that the Department did IK2035 tabling at WMU. He also stated that the Downtown meetings were coming up, and he encouraged them to go to the website for additional information.

2. Planning Commissioner Recommendations from Interviews by Interview Committee

Commissioner Pittelko thanked those who served on the interview committee. He gave a brief overview of the three qualified candidates.

- Drew Duncan
- Sakhi Vyas
- Diego Sandoval

He stated that if affirmed by the Planning Commission, these candidates would move forward to City Commission for appointment.

Planner Durkee stated that all the candidates were strong. His goal is to have the appointments on the April 6 City Commission agenda. Planner Durkee will attempt to on board the individuals before the April 8 Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioners Curtiss, Audette-Bauman, and Bissonnette agreed that they were strong candidates with varying perspectives and professional backgrounds that would be beneficial to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Bissonnette, seconded by Commissioner Audette-Bauman, moved to recommend Drew Duncan, Sakhi Vyas, and Diego Sandoval to the City Commission and Mayor for appointment to the Planning Commission. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Planner Durkee clarified for anyone listening that the Drew Duncan applying to the Planning Commission is a different Drew Duncan than is on the City Commission.

3. 2025 Annual Report

Planner Durkee summarized the actions of the Planning Commission and some of the Department accomplishments. He shared information regarding rezonings, Special Use Permit requests, Neighborhood Plans, site plans, some NFP approvals, and engagement.

Planner Durkee stated that he and an intern are creating a database of all the Planning Commission records. In coming months, they will present that information.

Commissioner Audette-Bauman was excited to hear more about the implementation of the database. She also wanted to commend staff for the joint training with the NFP Board and ZBA Board. Planner Durkee said they are already thinking of how to incorporate more training. Planner Kostrzewa also praised a training webinar that he watched.

4. Site Plan List

Planner Durkee said if the database project is a success, they will include site plan records.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No in-person comments.

Commissioner Pittelko shared the number for call-in comments.

No call-in comments.

I. CITY COMMISSION LIAISON COMMENTS

Commissioner Praedel thanked those leaving the Planning Commission for their time and service. He congratulated the new Commissioners on coming to the Board, and he is looking forward to working with them. Commissioner Praedel said they were wrapping up the Imagine Kalamazoo Design It! Phase meetings. He encouraged those who would like to give additional input to share that online and he gave the web address. More information will be coming regarding Downtown engagement events. The City Commission had a planning retreat on March 14. They did not finish prioritizing the goals at that meeting. They will continue that work. Information about the City Commission priorities should be forthcoming.

J. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Curtiss thanked Commissioners Pittelko, Swan, and Dascenzo for their service. Commissioner Pittelko said he believed the Planning Commission was in excellent hands.

Commissioner Curtiss asked if they needed to do officer elections that night or if they would do them on April 8. He wondered if they would have a Chair to lead the April meeting. Planner Durkee said that since the Chair and Vice Chair would have termed off, it would fall to the Secretary (Commissioner Curtiss) to run the meeting.

Commissioner Pittelko recommended the Secretary start the meeting as acting Chair. That would give the new Planning Commissioners a chance to weigh in on the vote. Planner Durkee agreed to have the elections at the beginning of the meeting on April 8, 2026.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pittelko adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.



Board Secretary Date

Elizabeth Chaseman *4/8/26*
Recording Secretary Date