



**2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT
CITY OF OAK PARK
PLANNING COMMISSION**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Kimberly Marrone, Municipal Services Director

Salam Habhab, Economic Development and Planning Specialist

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act requires an annual report to be submitted to the legislative body in regards to planning and development. I am happy to present this report to the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and City Council.

Section 19 (2) of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act provides 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 related to planning and development.”

Fiscal 2022-2023, was a busy year in the Economic Development and Planning Department and the Planning Commission. The implementation of a new zoning ordinance in 2021 has helped reduce the frequency for the Planning Commission to meet, as the new zoning ordinance allows administrative approvals for some site plans. Together we continue supporting our local businesses and the community of Oak Park by promoting business growth, attracting investment, and fostering innovation. This helps to create a pro-business environment in Oak Park.



Kimberly Marrone
Municipal Services Director

PLANNING COMMISSION

Long range planning for the physical development of the City of Oak Park is the primary focus of the Economic Development and Planning Department. In addition to preparing and maintaining the Master Plan, the department is responsible for the administration of the Zoning Ordinance and other planning tools to achieve the goals and objectives listed in the plan. The day-to-day operations of the planning and zoning functions for the city include addressing a considerable amount of phone calls, emails, and visits from the public, as well as administrative duties including preparation of public hearing notices, meeting minutes, scheduling of meetings and preparing meeting packets.

For those seeking project specific approvals, staff spends a substantial amount of time with potential applicants to ensure they have a clear understanding of their options as well as the process involved for each one. Staff diligently works with developers through the site plan review application and encourages all to attend a pre-application meeting prior to submission.

Planning Commission

Commission Members

Gary Torgow, Chairperson
Joe B. Brown, Vice Chairperson
Michael Eizelman, Secretary
Marian McClellan, Mayor
Carolyn Burns, City Council Member
Erik Tungate, City Manager
Michael Seligson
Howard Tkatch
Marie Walters-Gill

Summary

The Planning Commission is a nine-member volunteer board appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. They are responsible for planning the future growth of the community and review of specific development projects including special use permits, zoning ordinance amendments, and property rezoning requests. The Planning Commission is also charged with the preparation and adoption of plans for the City including the Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan.

The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Monday of each month in the City Council Chamber. Planning enabling legislation outlines that the Commission should represent

a broad spectrum of interests, including industry, transportation, commerce, education, agriculture, etc.; this same statute outlines that the Commission should represent the various geographic areas of the City. As provided for by statute, there are two City Council members appointed to the Planning Commission each with voting rights and one member of the Planning Commission also serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Planning Commission Meetings

During fiscal 2022-2023, the Planning Commission conducted ten (10) regular meetings in which two (2) meetings were rescheduled due to lack of quorum. Over the course of the year, four (4) meetings were cancelled for lack of business. Following is a summary of Planning Commission Action from the past year:

DATE	ACTION
09/12/2022	<p>Administrative Approval – Site Plan Review – Mackey Holdings – 13200 Capital St.</p> <p>Administrative Approval – Site Plan Review – TRV FIT – 14661 Eleven Mile Rd, Ste. 800</p> <p>Administrative Approval – Site Plan Review – Collision Guys – 12380 Coolidge Hwy</p> <p>Public Hearing to consider a Special Land Use request submitted by Bricco Excavating, 21201 Meyers Rd for outdoor storage use.</p> <p>Planning Commission approval regarding a Special Land Use request submitted by Bricco Excavating, 21201 Meyers Rd for outdoor storage use.</p>
10/10/2022	<p>No Quorum. The Public Hearing was opened to receive public comments. The meeting was adjourned until the November regular meeting on Monday, November 14, 2022.</p>
11/14/2022	<p>No Quorum. The Public Hearing was opened to receive public comments. The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, November 22, 2022.</p>
11/22/2022	<p>Rescheduled Meeting</p> <p>Recommendation to send a Letter of support – Sustainable Southfield 2.0 Comprehensive Master Plan</p> <p>2021-2022 Annual Report Received by the city of Oak Park Planning Commission</p> <p>Public Hearing to consider a Special Land Use request submitted by Simone Esters, 24340 Morton for a Group Day-Care Home (7 to 12 children less than 24 hours per day).</p> <p>Planning Commission approval regarding a Special Land Use request submitted by Simone Esters, 24340 Morton St for a Group Day-Care Home (7 to 12 children less than 24 hours per day).</p>

Site Plan Approval. Stateline Construction & Maintenance, 21721 Republic Ave.

12/12/2022 Oak Park Recreation Master Plan Update.

Site Plan Approval. 1-800 Self Storage, 21100 & 21150 Coolidge Hwy.

02/13/2023 Extension of Site Plan Approval – Corsaut Building Ventures, LLC -
15101 W. 11 Mile Rd

Public Hearing to consider proposed amendments to the City of Oak Park Zoning Ordinance in the following sections: Article 2, Division 2; Article 2, Division 3; Article 2, Division 4; Article 3, Division 1; Article 4, Division 1, Article 4, Division 3; Article 4, Division 4; Article 5, Division 1, Article 5, Division 3, Article 5, Division 4, Article 6, Division 1.

Planning Commission Approval regarding proposed text amendments to the City of Oak Park Zoning Ordinance in the following sections: Article 2, Division 2; Article 2, Division 3; Article 2, Division 4; Article 3, Division 1; Article 4, Division 1, Article 4, Division 3; Article 4, Division 4; Article 5, Division 1, Article 5, Division 3, Article 5, Division 4, Article 6, Division 1.

Site Plan Approval. TCF Auto Wholesale & TCF Towing, 3210 Cloverdale St.

04/18/2023 Administrative Approval – Perlmutter- Freiwald, Inc –13450 Northend Ave.

Administrative Approval – Kehillat Etz Chayim – 26341 Coolidge Hwy.

Administrative Approval – Pie Sci Pizza – 8140 W. Nine Mile Rd.

Extension of Site Plan Approval – 1-800 Self Storage Expansion -15160 W. 8 Mile Rd.

Changes to Approved Site Plan, 1-800 Self Storage, 21100 & 21150 Coolidge Hwy.

Site Plan Approval, Hansen’s Hall, 8210 W. Nine Mile Rd.

Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2024 Annual Budget

05/08/2023 Administrative Approval – Henry Ford OptimEye – 13155 W 10 Mile Rd.

Administrative Approval – Train Station Sports –14661 W. 11 Mile Rd.

Site Plan Approval, Yummy Shawarma & Grill, 12724 W. 9 Mile Rd.

06/12/2023 **No Quorum.** The Public Hearing was opened to receive public comments. The meeting was adjourned until Monday, June 19, 2023.

06/19/2023 Rescheduled Meeting

Administrative Approval – Kehal Rina U'tefilah – 25651 Coolidge Hwy.

Parking Study – Hansen's Hall – 8210 W. Nine Mile Rd.

Public Hearing to consider a proposed rezoning of 15110 W. Ten Mile Rd. Parcel #52-25-19-376-012, from RM-2, Multi-Family Residential District to R-1, Single-Family Residential District.

Planning Commission Approval regarding proposed rezoning of 15110 W. Ten Mile Rd. Parcel #52-25-19-376-012, from RM-2, Multi-Family Residential District to R-1, Single-Family Residential District.

Public Hearing to consider zoning text amendments in Article 2, Division 2, Table 211.1, Residential Districts; Article 2, Division 3, Table 221.1, Commercial and Mixed-Use District Uses; Article 2, Division 4, Table 231.1 Industrial Use Table; and, Article 5, Division 4 Special Land Use.

Planning Commission Approval regarding zoning text amendments in Article 2, Division 2, Table 211.1, Residential Districts; Article 2, Division 3, Table 221.1, Commercial and Mixed-Use District Uses; Article 2, Division 4, Table 231.1 Industrial Use Table; and, Article 5, Division 4 Special Land Use.

Public Hearing to consider a Special Land Use request submitted by GMB Architectural & Engineering for Yeshiva Beth Yehuda Preschool at 15110 W. Ten Mile Rd. Parcel #52-25-19-376-012.

Planning Commission Approval regarding a Special Land Use request submitted by GMB Architectural & Engineering for Yeshiva Beth Yehuda Preschool at 15110 W. Ten Mile Rd. Parcel #52-25-19-376-012.

Site Plan Approval, Great Lakes Landscape Design, 13201 Northend Ave.

Site Plan Review Process – Customer Feedback

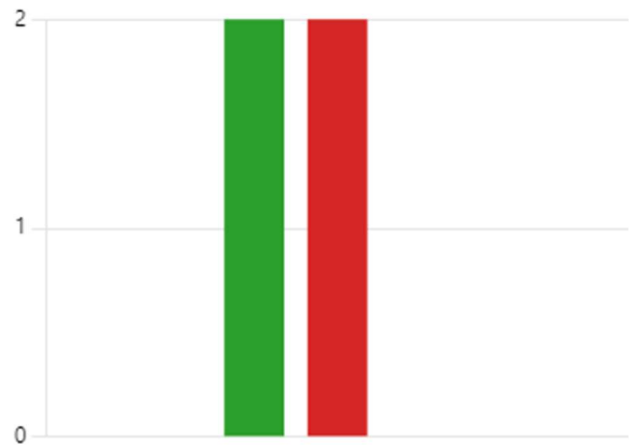
As part of the city’s commitment to providing a streamlined and efficient site plan review, the Economic Development and Planning Department obtains customer feedback on the Site Plan Review process, the permitting process and inspection process. Where appropriate, improvements to the process identified through this feedback are to be integrated. Internally, lessons learned are to be captured and incorporated into future projects by the staff.

A survey was created to solicit feedback to determine if the site plan process was satisfactory or could use improvements. Below is a synopsis of the input we received.

1. Please indicate the category to which you belong below:

[More Details](#)

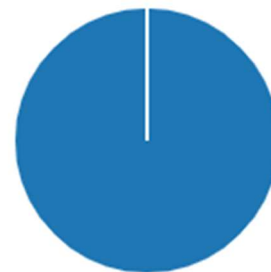
● Resident	0
● Contractor	0
● Commercial or Industrial Proper...	2
● Business owner	2
● Engineer or architect	0
● Non-profit developer	0
● Real Estate Development Consul...	0



2. Did you find the Site Plan approval process to be well organized and easy to navigate?

[More Details](#)

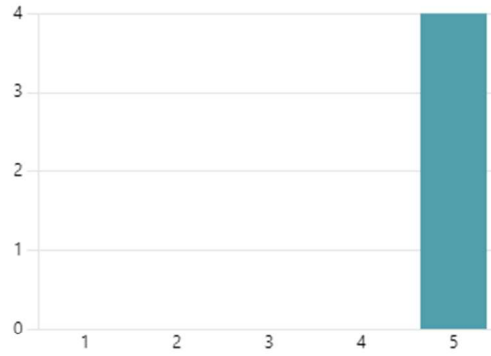
● Yes	4
● No	0
● Somewhat	0



3. How would you rate the pace of the Site Plan approval process. (5 is quick and efficient, 3 average, 2 slower than most, no action, required my constant interaction to usher the project along)

[More Details](#)

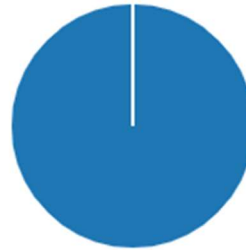
5.00
Average Rating



4. Do you feel the Planning Commission was thorough; understanding your concerns and addressing all of the important and relevant items?

[More Details](#)

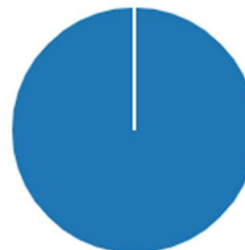
● Yes 3
● No 0



5. Were the City staff and/or Planning Commission members responsive to your questions, comments, or concerns?

[More Details](#)

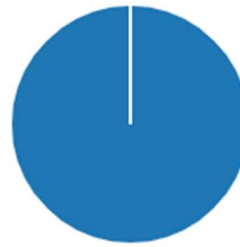
● Yes 4
● No 0



6. Did you find the Site Plan approval to be a fair and judicious process compared to other municipalities?

[More Details](#)

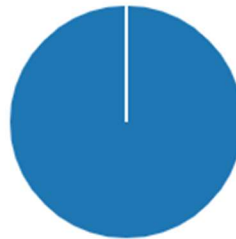
● Yes 4
● No 0



7. Did you feel that the final decision was consistent with the governing guidelines of the Site Plan approval process?

[More Details](#)

● Yes 4
● No 0



8. Thank you for your feedback. Please feel free to write additional comments, suggestions or concerns below:

1 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Kim and Salam are the best!

Master Plan

The Master Plan for the City of Oak Park outlines the goals and strategies which will guide the City over the next five years. The plan provides vision, goals and strategies to direct future land use and guidelines to enhance the community's appearance.

Implementation of the Master Plan Goals

Through the City's Master Plan the Economic Development and Planning Department has begun adopting the changes as identified in the Master Plan. A great deal of progress has been made on its numerous implementation actions. Some of these implementations are listed below:

Community:

- **Goal 2: Expand Housing Options.** The city received Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) technical assistance grant for a pilot program to conduct a market analysis and senior living housing study by Plante Moran. The focus of the study is to identify growth opportunities for mixed-use (residential and retail) development on the south side of 11 Mile Rd, and senior housing to be located near the City of Oak Park Community Center and inform new housing development strategies.

Commerce:

- **Goal 1: Create vibrant, dynamic commercial corridors.** The approval of a diverse range of uses enhances a sense of vitality and activity, which results in creating flourishing commercial corridors.
- **Goal 2: Attract high quality diverse restaurants.** The approval of the development of Hanson's Hall as the first family lounge/bar in Oak Park along with Pie Sie Pizza and Yummy Shawarma Restaurants will bring yet a family oriented high-quality restaurants/bar to the Nine Mile neighborhood business district.
- **Goal 3: Provide streamlined, business-friendly permitting process and easily obtainable resources for businesses.** The Economic Development and Planning Department worked diligently with every architect and applicant to provide resources and speed up the appropriate development and approval processes (Administrative Approval, Site Plan Review, and Special Land Use).
- **Goal 4: Revise and improve commercial parking zoning regulations and municipal parking options.** Text amendments were made to the off-street parking standards authorizing the planning commission to reduce off-street parking numerical standards up to 50% with the provision of a professionally prepared parking study.
- **Goal 5: Update maps, zoning, and ordinances.** The approval of zoning map amendment that changed a property at Ten Mile Rd from RM-2 Multi-Family Residential to R-1 One-family Residential. This zoning change better represented the characteristics of the area and will allow the vacant site to be developed with a private educational institution which complements the land uses of the area. In addition, multiple text amendments were made to improve the overall zoning ordinances to make development easier as well as make sure developments are of good quality and reflect the goals of the Master Plan.
- **Goal 6: Improve Commercial Corridors Visual Appearance to Spur Investment** The approval of TRV Fit and Train Station Sports on 11 Mile Rd provides a diverse of activities which compliments the mixed-use commercial corridor within the water tower social district. Additionally, the approval of Pie Sci Pizza, Hansen's Hall, and Yummy Shawarma and Grill will spur the development in the Nine Mile commercial

corridor.

- **Goal 7: Redevelopment of Blighted or Underutilized Buildings.** The Hansen's Hall and Pie Sci Pizza sites have been vacant for several years. The redevelopment of an automobile repair establishment and a warehouse to a family lounge/ bar and a carry out restaurant has successfully transformed blighted and underutilized buildings into vibrant uses contributing to the overall sense of place along the Nine Mile Corridor.
- **Improve rental properties.** The city is actively working towards improving the rental properties by implementing the strategies of the rental inspection program and continuing code enforcement efforts.
- **Goal 9: Provide resources to entrepreneurs and businesses.** The economic development and planning staff provides personalized assistance, helping entrepreneurs navigate the development review process, and connecting them to relevant resources and financial support. The department also hosted various learning and networking events for small businesses providing a platform for business owners to connect, learn, and share knowledge and experiences.
- **Goal 10: Improve industrial areas.** The approval of a wide variety of industrial developments such as the 1800-Self Storage facility, Collision Guys, Great Lakes Landscape Design, Mackey Holdings, Bricco Excavating, TCF Auto Wholesale and Towing, Perlmutter Freiwald will spur the development within the industrial park, improve the appearance of old and vacant buildings, and enhance the visual appearance of the park. The addition of a significant amount of landscaping along these projects will add value and enhance the appearance of the industrial park.

Future Planning Goals

The Economic Development and Planning Department with the guidance of the Planning Commission will continue working toward accomplishing the goals of the Master Plan to strengthen our community, enhance our diverse culture, and stimulate commerce, as summarized below:

Community

- Cultivate a sense of place and unique public spaces through utilizing tactical urbanism and adding streetscape amenities. *On-going*
- Improve appearance of alleys and explore better ways to utilize the space. *On-going*
- Identify opportunities and pursue areas for new public spaces. *On-going*
- Discourage new surface parking lots adjacent to pedestrian-oriented commercial corridors and encourage the placement in the rear of the building. *On-going*
- Improve connections to neighboring communities, amenities and other bike trails. *Mid-term*
- Expanding housing options by beginning with a housing market analysis. *-short term*
- Encouraging new housing styles that meet the needs of current and future residents. *On-going*
- Encourage adaptive reuse options for vacant and underutilized buildings *-On-going*
- Identify options for senior housing to meet the needs of the aging population *-Mid-Term*
- Enhance pedestrian scaled streets and foster a comfortable and safe environment for all users within the context of the city's existing infrastructure and community needs. *On-going*

Culture

- Update Zoning regulations and allow green storm water infrastructure design. *On-going*

Commerce

- Encourage development that promotes pedestrian over auto related parking requirements. *On-going*
- Enforce regulations to ensure quality developments. *On-going*
- Continue pre-development meetings with all necessary departments to speed up the development and approval process. *On-going*
- Revise parking requirements utilizing best practices of other cities and consider shared parking and payment in lieu as alternatives. *Short-term*
- Update Future Land Use Map. *Short-term*
- Identify opportunities and create multi-use transitional zones from commercial or industrial into neighborhoods, as well as buffers to protect residential areas. *Mid-term*
- Consider Form Based Code and create design standards for new development. *On-going*
- Review landscaping standards and add landscaping/screening buffers to industrial area to reduce the negative visual characteristics of these developments. *Mid-term*
- Improve overall appearance of the Industrial Park and encourage development of public spaces as part of new industrial development. *Mid-term*

Short term – within one year

Mid-term – within the next three years

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is the only board authorized to interpret, waive or modify requirements of the City of Oak Park Zoning Ordinance. This Board operates as a quasi-judicial body similar to a court of appeals. Decisions made by the Zoning Board of Appeals are final. Relief from ZBA decisions are granted only by the Circuit Court.

Board Members (Who Served During 2022-2023)

James Huston, Chairperson
Abraham (Avi) Snider, Vice Chairperson
Michael Seligson, Planning Commission
Taleesa Anderson
Allyson Andrews
Aaron Kleid
Sharrista Brown

Summary

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of members who were appointed by the City Council. The Zoning Board of Appeals conducts regular, public meetings in City Council Chambers on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meeting agendas are posted on the City web site.

Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings

During 2022-2023, the Zoning Board of Appeals conducted Two (2) regular scheduled meetings. Ten (10) meetings were cancelled for lack of business. Following is a summary of Zoning Board of Appeals action from the past year:

DATE ACTION

07/26/2022 APPROVED - CASE NO.22-05: Yosef Durden and Sivya Nathan, 15131 Dartmouth St., Property Identification Number 52-25-30-102-010, appeal request for a variance from the provisions of Article 2, Division 2: Residential Districts of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for an addition to the main dwelling that does not meet the ordinance requirements, as the following:

1. A variance to allow a lot coverage of (39.1) percent to be able to construct an addition of (815) square feet to main dwelling.

06/27/2023 APPROVED WITH A CONDITION - CASE NO.23-01: Jerome Poisac, 10771 Saratoga St. Property Identification Number: 52-25-32-204-004, appeal request for one variance from the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance as follows:

1. A waiver of approximately (2) feet from the provision in Article 2, Division 2, Article 214, to allow for the construction of a carport (roof with posts) 10 ft wide by 22 ft long which would allow for the sum of both side yards to be (12) ft. The carport shall be open (unenclosed)

from three sides (roof and posts).

APPROVED – CASE NO. 23-02: GMB Architecture & Engineering on behalf of Yeshiva Beth Yehudah, 15110 W. Ten Mile Rd. Property Identification Number: 52-25-19-376-012, appeal request for five variances from the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance as follows:

The following variances were approved:

1. A waiver to allow an 8-foot fence to extend toward the front of the lot farther than the front building line from the provisions of Article 3, Division 1: Section 308.a General Provisions of the Zoning Ordinance
2. A waiver of (2) feet to allow an 8-foot-high fence from the provisions of Article 3, Division 1: Section 308.b Residential Provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.
3. A waiver of (15) feet to allow the west side yard setback of (35) feet from the provisions of Article 5, Division 4: Section 557.h Educational Institutions of the Zoning Ordinance.
4. A waiver of (15) feet to allow the rear (north) setback yard of (35) feet from the provisions of Article 5, Division 4: Section 557.h Educational Institutions of the Zoning Ordinance.

The following variance was tabled:

5. A waiver of (40) feet to allow the east parking setback of 10 feet from the provisions of Article 5, Division 4: Section 557.h Educational Institutions of the Zoning Ordinance

BOARD AND COMMISSION TRAINING

The City of Oak Park encourages ongoing training for staff, elected officials, and appointed officials charged with making development related decisions for the community. Members of Oak Park's development related boards and commissions make important decisions for the community which can reach far into the future. As such, it is important to prioritize continued education and onboarding training for appointed and elected board members and staff.

In November 2022, the Economic Development and Planning Department created a Development Training Strategy for development boards and commissions with the goal of each development board and commission member to attend a minimum of two (2) hours training annually. This training can be completed through various options outlined in the plan. However, it is recommended that at least one (1) hour of that training should be completed independently, outside of regular meetings.

Throughout the year the City Planner will inform the members of any additional training opportunities that we encourage members to attend. Board members should report any training completed so we can track by member training that has been received.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The city recognizes the importance of involving the public in shaping policies, projects, and initiatives that impact the Oak Park community. Through robust public participation and engagement efforts, the city strives to promote collaboration, empower individuals, and ensure that our decisions align with the interest and values of the public we serve.

Public Participation Plan Goals and Objectives

The City of Oak Park is committed to encourage citizen participation by encouraging a diverse set of community stakeholders. The city will continue to strive to involve the community in the decision-making process.

- Increased support for plans and projects that more effectively meet the needs of our diverse public through the involvement of residents and organizations. Creating a sense of ownership of a new project or plan within the community through community involvement.
- There are many techniques and mechanisms available to ensure that a diverse public is well-informed and able to play a role in the planning process. Recognizing that no single technique or mechanism will work in all cases, it is up to the City to consider the special communication needs of the public and use the best approaches to accomplish this objective.
- When appropriate, host joint public engagement events and share public participation data and best practices with other organizations.
- Engage all organizations within the community including: faith based organizations, professional organizations and businesses, block clubs, board and commission members, residents and other cultural and social organizations with the community.
- Offer multiple opportunities and ways for the community to engage in the conversation, including: townhall meetings, social media, surveys, fliers, and e-mail. Ensure the project is promoted to the public and that they are offered the opportunity to participate.
- In addition to offering multiple opportunities for community members to engage, it is important to understand that not everyone actively engages with their local government. Meeting people where they are at (i.e. local commercial businesses, parks, special events) to engage with them provides an opportunity to solicit opinions from a wider range of community members. It is also an effective way to get more community members involved in future public meetings.

- Public information and involvement methods are continually evolving. The City is committed to seeking new and innovative ways to engage and keep the public involved throughout the process.
- Record results of the public engagement and report the results back to the public through the use of social media, video, website, and/or city council and planning commission meetings.
- Attend other meetings within the community and communicate what the city is working on with the public.

Public Engagement Update. July 1st, 2022 – June 30th, 2023

Public Meetings. The City of Oak Park strictly adheres to the Open Michigan Act (OMA) requirements to assure that due process in decision making is maximized. The following meetings were accessible to the public; a time allocated for the public to comment was provided at each of these meetings.

- City Council Meetings [Every 1st and 2nd Monday of the month].
- Planning Commission Meetings [Every 2nd Monday of the month]. The Planning Commission conducted a total of ten (10) meetings which included six (6) Public Hearings to receive public comments on various proposed projects and Zoning Text Amendments.
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings [Every 4th Tuesday of the month]. The Zoning Board of Appeals conducted two (2) meetings with Public Hearings to receive comments on various variances requests.
- Corridor Improvement Authority Meetings [Every 3rd Thursday of the month]. The Corridor Improvement Authority conducted Eight (8) public meetings to promote economic growth initiative and provide resources to improve the commercial corridors within the City.

Community Events. The following list serves to highlight several engagement activities from the last year that were intended to go above and beyond what is required by State and Local regulations and to align with the goals and objectives set forth in the Public Participation Plan.

- I. **11 Mile Parking Lot Activation: “Fall into Fun” (2022).** For the month of October in 2022 the City of Oak Park activated a potential pocket park in the Water Tower Social District with the following events:
 - Social District Pocket Park Kick Off Event
 - Pumpkin Painting and Carving
 - Yard Games
 - Pet Costume Contest and Parade
 - Trunk-or-Treat
 - Movie Night: “Hocus Pocus”
 - UofM v MSU viewing party

At these events attendees were offered the opportunity to share their thoughts on turning the Gardener Street temporary pocket park into something permanent via an online survey. There were 80 surveys completed, and through this robust public engagement opportunity it was determined the pocket park should not become a permanent fixture at this time.

- II. **Small Business Learning and Networking Events:** Through a partnership with the cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village, three different events have been held to support local business development and growth; these events are promoted via flyer, social media, the website, e-blasts and more.
 - Oak Park Entrepreneurial and Small Business Networking (August 2022)

- Financing Breakfast & Forum (January 2023)
 - Cash Flow Workshop (April 2023)
- III. **City of Oak Park Dog Park Naming Contest:** Public engagement was sought to determine the name of the City’s newest park, “Oak Park & Bark.” There were 223 responses to this survey which was conducted during the month of March 2023.
- IV. **Boards and Commissions Dinner:** This event is hosted every other year and invites our 60 plus Boards and Commissions members to a dinner event where they are honored for their service and provided up-to-date information on city projects and initiatives. (March 2023)
- V. **State of the City 2023: Let’s Rise Together:** The City hosted its annual State of the City address in the Community Center and highlighted several accomplishments over the last year and also reviewed what the future could look like. A large focus of the event was emphasizing the work that had been done for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update and showcasing the wants and needs of the community in terms of parks and recreation opportunities.
- VI. **Juneteenth Jubilee Event:** A community event put on by the City’s Juneteenth Subcommittee that works with location organizations, schools and community leaders to honor and highlight this holiday and the City’s diversity. (June 2023)