



**2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT
CITY OF OAK PARK
PLANNING COMMISSION**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Kimberly Marrone, Municipal Services Director

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORWARD

Message from the Director 3

PLANNING

Planning Commission 4

Zoning Board of Appeals 14

Board and Commission Training..... 16

Public Engagement 16

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 2023-2024 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 Chambers. 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 Appeal

Planning Commission Meetings

During fiscal year 2023-2024, the Planning Commission conducted five (5) regular meetings. Over the course of the year, seven (7) meetings were cancelled for lack of business. Following is a summary of Planning Commission Action from the past year:

DATE	ACTION
08/14/2023	Administrative Approval –Multi-Tenant Building - 14350 W. 8 Mile Rd. Extension of Site Plan Approval - Gloworks Wholesale - 21116 Greenfield Rd. Public Hearing to consider a Special Land Use request submitted by Eric Williams, Stonefield Engineering & Design, to construct a new student dormitory for Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Mordechai at 24600 Greenfield Rd. Planning Commission approval regarding a Special Land Use request submitted by Eric Williams, Stonefield Engineering & Design, to construct a new student dormitory for Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Mordechai at 24600 Greenfield Rd. Adopted proposed amendment to the Planning Commission By-laws and Rules of Procedure
01/08/2024	Administrative Approval - Planet Property - 21815 Republic Ave. Administrative Approval - Commercial Multi-Tenant Building – 20800 Greenfield Rd. Administrative Approval - Multifamily Commercial Construction (MFCC) - 13355 Capital St. Administrative Approval - BMI Towing Services - 8510 Northend Ave. Received the 2022-2023 Annual Report for the City of Oak Park Planning Commission Site Plan Approval - Quest Transportation - 21721 Republic Ave.
04/08/2024	Administrative Approval - Kerry Brothers Truck Repair - 12800 Northend Ave. Administrative Approval - Forward Engineering - 10325 Capital St. Administrative Approval - Multi-Tenant Building: Ax Now/Capital Landscapes - 21700 Wyoming Outdoor Dining Approval - Hansen's Hall - 8210 W. 9 Mile Rd.

Received the Notice of Intent to Plan: Detroit Master Plan of Policies

Received the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2024-2025 Annual Budget

05/13/2024 Received the Notice of Intent to conduct Master Plan Planning: Pleasant Ridge Master Plan & Parks and Recreation Plan Update

Recommendation to send a Letter of Support to Royal Oak Township - Draft Community Master Plan

Site Plan Approval - Oak Park Auto Center - 8624 Capital St.

06/10/2024 Administrative Approval - Gurr Brothers Construction - 21070 Coolidge Hwy.

Administrative Approval - Chet's Rent-All - 20800 Coolidge Hwy.

Site Plan Approval - Barton Malow Laydown Yard Expansion - 21090 Fern St.

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.

In the past year, the Economic Development and Planning Department has diligently worked with business owners to ensure compliance with local zoning and permit requirements. This included addressing cases where businesses were operating without obtaining the necessary development approval such as administrative approval (sketch plan review), site plan review, or business licenses. Through proactive assistance, the department has successfully guided many businesses through the permitting process. However, it is important to acknowledge that few businesses expressed dissatisfaction with the process. To address these concerns and improve the overall permitting experience, the department is committed to improve communication channels between the department and potential businesses or property owners to ensure providing clear guidance on the development process required for new businesses to avoid starting the operation without obtaining the necessary permits.

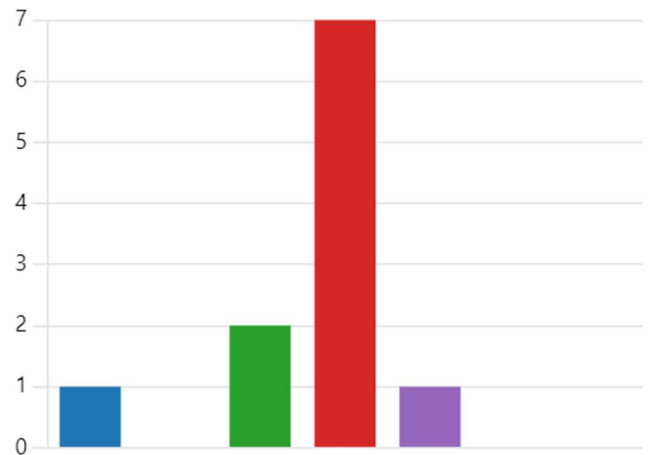
A survey was created to solicit feedback to determine if the site plan process was satisfactory or could use improvements. Below is a synopsis of the input we received.

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

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Resident	1
● Contractor	0
● Commercial or Industrial Proper...	2
● Business owner	7
● Engineer or architect	1
● Non-profit developer	0
● Real Estate Development Consul...	0

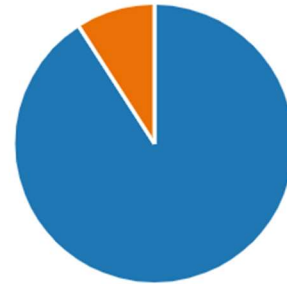


2. Did you find the Site Plan approval process to be well organized and easy to navigate?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes	10
● No	1
● Somewhat	0

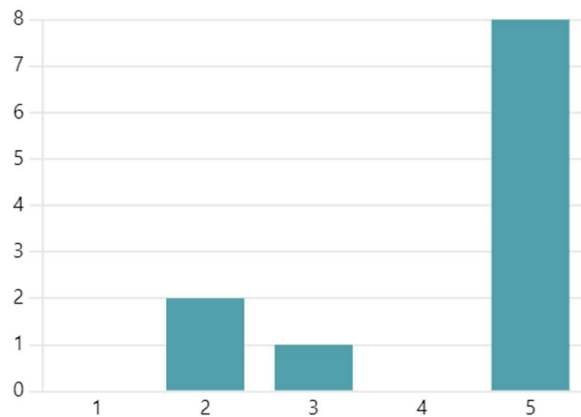


3. How would you rate the pace of the Site Plan approval process. (5 is quick and efficient, 3 average, 2 slower than most, no action, required my constant interaction to usher the project along)

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

4.27
Average Rating

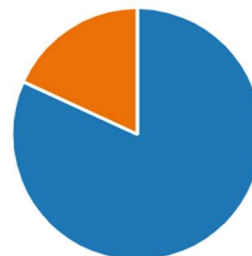


4. Do you feel the Planning Commission was thorough; understanding your concerns and addressing all of the important and relevant items?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes	9
● No	2

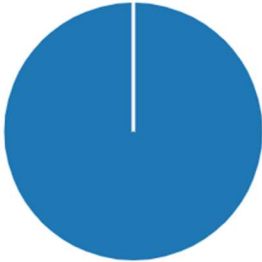


5. Were the City staff and/or Planning Commission members responsive to your questions, comments, or concerns?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Yes	11
 No	0

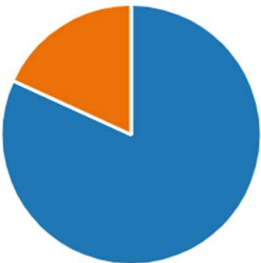


6. Did you find the Site Plan approval to be a fair and judicious process compared to other municipalities?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Yes	9
 No	2

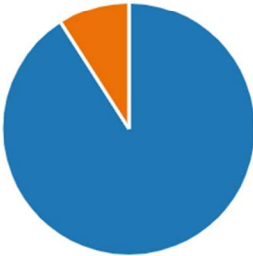


7. Did you feel that the final decision was consistent with the governing guidelines of the Site Plan approval process?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Yes	10
 No	1



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

5 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	The Team from the City was extremely helpful making themselves available to answer questions throughout the process.
2	anonymous	Requests seemed very arbitrary and out-of-line with other nearby properties. Requirements imposed were irrelevant to our business. Other requests were too costly to implement
3	anonymous	Salam Habhab and Kimberley Marrone were instrumental in providing assistance to our company so that we knew what to focus our efforts on and they were very quick to respond to all of our questions. Well done Oak Park!!!
4	anonymous	mohamed majhed . salam habhab did a amazing job, she would respond within a timely manner. she would take time to explain what needed to be done. it was a pleasure working with her.
5	anonymous	It was fantastic to work with Salam and Kimberly. They made this process so easy step by step and we are happy to be apart of Oak Park!

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 1: Cultivate a Sense of Place and Unique Public Spaces.** The City activated various public spaces through expanding recreational programming into visible public spaces. The Corridor Improvement Authority hosted its first Family Fun Fest at the Nine Mile Corridor from Scotia to Sherman, activating the Nine Mile Linear Park, Connector Park, and Senica and Sherman Pockets Park. Additionally, The Water Tower Social Districts was activated by multiple community events, such as October Fest, Tailgate and Elevate, Oak Park Film Festival, and Trunk or Treat.
- **Goal 2: Expand Housing Options.** The City completed 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. Furthermore, as part of the Elevate Oak Park project, the City has identified a suitable location for senior housing within the City Campus, near the new event hub and recreation facility.
- **Goal 3. Enhance Pedestrian-scaled Street and Foster a Comfortable & Safe Environment for all Users within the Context of the City's Existing Infrastructure & Community Needs.** The City continues to improve the safety and comfort of pedestrians and bicyclists. The City has recently enhanced the safety of cyclists by combining the north

and south bicycle tracks along the Nine Mile corridor into a protected dual bicycle track south of the Nine Mile corridor to further safeguard cyclists from traffic.

COMMERCE:

- **Goal 1: Create vibrant, dynamic commercial corridors.** The approval of a diverse range of land uses enhances a sense of vitality and activity, which results in creating flourishing commercial corridors. The Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) has also played a key role in enhancing the physical appearance of the corridor. The CIA's Facade Improvement Grant program has supported local businesses with improvements to their storefronts, resulting in a more aesthetically pleasing and inviting atmosphere. Some of the businesses that have received Facade Improvement Grants are Pie Sci Pizza, Hansen's Hall, Dallas Design, Peteet's Cheesecake, Oak Park Barber's, Ines and Marie, & Bella Vamier.
- **Goal 2: Attract high quality diverse restaurants.** The approval of the Mother Handsome (coffee and bar) in place of Berkley Coffee brought a family oriented high-quality coffee shop, pizza and bar to the Eleven Mile business corridor. Furthermore, the approval of businesses such as The Best Damn Salad, Pizza Cat, and Rocco's Pizza has provided a variety of dining options in the area and boosted the economic activity of the City.
- **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.** The Economic Development and Planning is actively exploring the possibility of reducing or eliminating off-street parking requirements for commercial and industrial uses. We are currently conducting research to identify best practices that will enhance our commercial parking zoning regulations and municipal parking options.
- **Goal 5: Update maps, zoning, and ordinances.** The Economic Development and Planning continues to research to identify best practices for updating the zoning ordinance and map.
- **Goal 6: Improve Commercial Corridors Visual Appearance to Spur Investment** The approval of Gloworks, multi-tenant building, and a new student dormitory for Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Mordechai has contributed to the economic vitality of the Greenfield Corridor. Furthermore, the City with partnership with the city of Southfield, has implemented improvements for a new gateway monument signs and street banners and landscaping to enhance the corridor's visual appeal and spur development.
- **Goal 7: Redevelopment of Blighted or Underutilized Buildings.** The approval of various commercial and industrial land uses such as Forward Engineering, BMI Towing, Gurr Brothers, MFCC, Quest Transportation, Kerry Brothers, etc. within the City has successfully transformed blighted and underutilized buildings into vibrant uses contributing to the overall sense of place in the commercial corridors and industrial park.
- **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 Multifamily Commercial Construction (MFCC), BMI Towing services, Quest Transportation, Forward Engineering, Oak Park Auto Center, Gurr Brothers Construction, Chet's Rent-All, and the expansion of Barton Malow Laydown Yard and Planet Property, 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 sharedparking and payment in lieu of 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 areas to reduce the negative visual characteristics of these developments. *Mid-term*
- Improve the 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 is granted only by the Circuit Court.

Board Members (Who Served During 2023-2024)

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 2023-2024, 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

07/19/2023 **SPECIAL MEETING.** The following variance was tabled by the ZBA from their regular meeting on June 27, 2023. The original request involves five variance requests. The four requests to allow for the construction of a private preschool that does not meet the west and rear setbacks, front fence location and fence height requirements were approved at the June 27, 2023, meeting. However, the east parking setback was tabled till this meeting.

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. Four variances were approved at the ZBA Meetings on June, 27

1. 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.

08/22/2023

APPROVED - CASE NO.23-03: Mr. Larry Freimark on behalf of

Yeshiva Gedolah of Greater Detroit, 24600 Greenfield Rd., has made an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance from the provisions of Article 5, Division 4: Section 557.p Student Dormitories- Private of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a private student dormitory that does not meet the minimum usable floor area per bed, as the following:

2. A waiver from the requirements of Section 557.p.4 to reduce the usable floor area in each dormitory room for each one bed to (76) square feet. The zoning ordinance requires (80) square feet.

06/25/2024

No Quorum. The Public Hearing for each case was opened:

TABLED. The meeting was adjourned until the next regular meeting. CASE No. 24-01: Michael J. Gordon, RA on behalf of Dr. Duncan Mukeku, 21790 Coolidge Hwy.

- i. Article 2, Division 4: Section 231 Industrial Use Table of the Zoning Ordinance allows for upper floor residential dwelling units. The applicant is requesting a variance to allow for main (ground) floor residential dwellings.

TABLED. The meeting was adjourned until the next regular meeting. CASE No. 24-02: Chef's Rent-All, 20800 Coolidge Hwy.

- i. Article 2, Division 4: Section 231 Industrial Use Table of the Zoning Ordinance allows for upper floor residential dwelling units. The applicant is requesting a variance to allow for main (ground) floor residential dwellings.

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.

Throughout the year the Economic Development and Planning staff will inform the members of relevant training opportunities. Members are encouraged to attend these trainings and report completed training to the staff for tracking purposes.

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 encouraging 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 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, 2023 – June 30th, 2024

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 Five (5) meetings which included one (1) Public Hearing.
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings [Every 4th Tuesday of the month]. The Zoning Board of Appeals conducted three (3) 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 Eleven (11) 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. **Elevate Oak Park.** The City actively involved residents in the development of the Park and Recreation Master Plan and 2023 Ballot Initiative. As a result, the millage was approved by voters in November 2023. The funds generated through the millage will enable the City to implement a range of improvements to Best Park, Dewey Park, Key Park Rothstein and Tyler Park; a new community center; walking trails, new Park restrooms; and additional programming. These proposed improvements will enhance the quality of life for all residents. Engagement efforts included the following:
 - 20 Town Halls
 - 4 Hybrid Community Engagement Meetings
 - 4 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meetings
 - 6 City Council Meetings
 - 7 Hybrid Stakeholder meetings
 - Collaboration meetings with Berkley, Ferndale, Oak Park and Yeshiva schools and Oakland County
 - 127 Concept Survey Respondents
 - 250 Statistically Valid Survey Respondent
- II. **Water Tower Social District:** The City of Oak Park activated the Water Tower Social District with the following events:
 - Octoberfest (September 9, 2023)
 - Tailgate and Elevate (September 23, 2023)
 - Oak Park Film Festival (October 8-10)
 - Trunk-or-Treat (October 28)

At these events the City engaged directly with residents to inform them about the proposed millage, build support, encourage participation, and address concerns. The success of the millage demonstrates the strong commitment to engage the residents in decision making and foster community discussion.

III. **Small Business Learning and Networking Events:** Through a partnership with the cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village, six (6) 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.

- Learn & Lunch Are you E-Commerce Ready (August 24, 2023)
- Tri-City Holiday Business Mixer (November 16, 2023)
- How to Master Time Management (February 22, 2024)
- Social Media and Marketing Strategy (April 9, 2024)
- Tri-City Small Business Focus Group (May 1, 2024)
- Tri-City Morning Mixer (May 14, 2024)

The Tri-City Business Support initiative has received the Outstanding Award from Oakland County Main Street to highlight the program's exceptional contribution to fostering economic growth and vitality within the region.

IV. **State of the City 2024:** Elevate Oak Park: The City hosted its annual State of the City address in the City Council Chambers 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 success of the park and recreation millage and the commitment to invest in our park and recreation facilities to improve the quality of life and showcasing the new design of the event hub.

V. **Other Community Events:**

- Summer Entertainment Series (July - August 2023)
- Farmer's Market (July – September 2023)
- Winter Fest (January 28, 2024)
- 4th of July Celebration: Includes the Mayor's 5 K, the Oak Park Youth Assistance Pancake Breakfast, The 4th of July Parade, and the 4th of July Fun Fest at Shepard Park.
- Family Fun Fest (June 1, 2024)
- Summer Blast 2024 (June 14-16)
- Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration (June 19, 2024)