



City of Plymouth Planning Commission Sub-Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday, May 11, 2026 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

City of Plymouth
201 S. Main
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

www.plymouthmi.gov
Phone 734-453-1234

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Roll Call
2. CITIZENS COMMENTS
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
 - a. Approval of the April 20, 2026 meeting minutes
4. MSHDA GRANT DISCUSSION
 - a. Residential compatibility definition and whys
5. ADJOURNMENT

Citizen Comments - This section of the agenda allows up to 3 minutes to present information or raise issues regarding items not on the agenda. Upon arising to address the Commission, speakers should first identify themselves by clearly stating their name and address. Comments must be limited to the subject of the item.

Meetings of the City of Plymouth are open to all without regard to race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, disability, or any other trait protected under applicable law. Any individual planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should submit a request to the ADA Coordinator at 734-453-1234 ext. 234 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. The request may also be submitted via mail at 201 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI 48170, or email to clerk@plymouthmi.gov.

City of Plymouth Strategic Plan 2022-2026

GOAL AREA ONE - SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and establish sustainable financial model(s) for major capital projects, Old Village business district, 35th District Court, recreation department, and public safety
2. Incorporate eco-friendly, sustainable practices into city assets, services, and policies; including more environmentally friendly surfaces, reduced impervious surfaces, expanded recycling and composting services, prioritizing native and pollinator-friendly plants, encouraging rain gardens, and growing a mature tree canopy
3. Partner with or become members of additional environmentally aware organizations
4. Increase technology infrastructure into city assets, services, and policies
5. Continue sustainable infrastructure improvement for utilities, facilities, and fleet
6. Address changing vehicular habits, including paid parking system /parking deck replacement plan, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, and one-way street options

GOAL AREA TWO – STAFF DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SUCCESSION

OBJECTIVES

1. Create a 5-year staffing projection
2. Review current recruitment strategies and identify additional resources
3. Identify/establish flex scheduling positions and procedures
4. Develop a plan for an internship program
5. Review potential department collaborations
6. Hire an additional recreation professional
7. Review current diversity, equity, and inclusion training opportunities
8. Seek out training opportunities for serving diverse communities

GOAL AREA THREE - COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

OBJECTIVES

1. Engage in partnerships with public, private and non-profit entities
2. Increase residential/business education programs for active citizen engagement
3. Robust diversity, equity, and inclusion programs
4. Actively participate with multi-governmental lobbies (Michigan Municipal League, Conference of Western Wayne, etc.)

GOAL AREA FOUR - ATTRACTIVE, LIVABLE COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

1. Create vibrant commercial districts by seeking appropriate mixed-use development, marketing transitional properties, and implementing Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) practices
2. Improve existing and pursue additional recreational and public green space opportunities and facilities for all ages
3. Develop multi-modal transportation plan which prioritizes pedestrian and biker safety
4. Improve link between Hines Park, Old Village, Downtown Plymouth, Plymouth Township, and other regional destinations
5. Maintain safe, well-lit neighborhoods with diverse housing stock that maximizes resident livability and satisfaction
6. Modernize and update zoning ordinance to reflect community vision
7. Implement Kellogg Park master plan

Program Description

The City of Plymouth will update its Master Plan and relevant zoning ordinances. The Master Plan updates include: determining the existing and desired multi-family building types that work best in the existing context of the city, designing future land use regulations based on analyzing those results, and deciding the appropriate densities and building form.

Zoning ordinance updates include expanding the RT-1 zoning district to allow triplexes as a principal permitted use, or creating a RT-2 zoning district that allows a breadth of “missing middle” housing. The City of Plymouth will also clarify minimum lot sizes and maximum densities, and eliminate formulas based on the number of rooms used in areas with multi-family districts. New allowances will also be implemented. Examples include allowing smaller than 60-foot wide lots to continue when underlying plat and existing pattern of residential development supports it, and allowing detached accessory dwelling units in strategic locations. Another zoning update is creating a low density single-family zoning district with the appropriate lot width and size to protect the character of those neighborhoods planned for single-family low density. Finally, the City of Plymouth will update multi-family zoning districts to match density and housing types with the Master Plan.

Please describe how the completed activity will increase housing supply and affordability:

Outlining specific characteristics of multi-family housing options in the Master Plan will direct zoning amendments. Updating RT-1 increases the likelihood that two- or three-family housing will be constructed in locations where single-family redevelopment is occurring more frequently. Eliminating density formulas based on the number of rooms will allow greater housing density to be constructed and increases the permitted number of bedrooms per unit. Reducing lot sizes to match the original plat allows smaller, more affordable homes to be built. Accessory dwelling units increase the number of housing units available within the city for multi-generational and workforce housing. Retaining existing housing units in low-density single-family neighborhoods minimizes expensive, large-scale infill development.

Recommendations from the Zoning Audit:

In the next Zoning Ordinance update, consider expanding the RT-1 zoning district to allow triplexes as a principal permitted use or creating a RT-2 zoning district that allows a breadth of “missing middle” housing. Maximum densities should be clear and not use formulas (i.e., number of rooms based on site area) for a baseline.

In the next Zoning Ordinance update, the minimum lot size and maximum density should be clear, without formulas to determine a baseline. Those formulas could be used for exceptions if it were needed. Form-based regulations could eliminate the need for the sliding scales currently used.

The R-1 Zoning District has various lot widths, ranging from 40 feet to 120 feet. The R-1 Zoning District currently requires a minimum of 60 feet in lot width and 7,200 square feet in lot area. When larger parcels are redeveloped or transitioned to single-family that are adjacent to existing neighborhoods with non-conforming lot sizes, the current regulations do not allow for the continuation of the existing pattern. In the next Master Plan update, the Planning Commission may want to identify those areas where this mismatch could potentially occur and plan for either a form-based approach or a new single family residential zoning district. Ultimately, the zoning would be changed to allow for smaller than 60-foot wide lots to continue the existing pattern of residential development.

Change the regulations in footnotes (c), (d), (e), and (l) for multiple-family uses based on the design that has best worked in the City. Consider moving these out of the Schedule of Regulations to a more visible place. If using a form-based approach, a building form for townhouses and multiple-family buildings should be developed.

Consider using a build-to line for streets or blocks, rather than the averaging in footnote (o). The creation of those build-to lines would be time-intensive. Since the front yard averaging has worked well in neighborhoods, the build-to line may not be appropriate in the R-1 zoning district.

Allowing payment in lieu of parking available in all districts.

Allow the Planning Commission to waive or reduce parking requirements in all districts.

MSHDA Grant Sub-Committee Priorities

1. Formulas
2. Residential compatibility
3. Platting



Plymouth Planning Commission Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, April 20, 2026 – 4:30 p.m. City Hall Conference Room

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Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

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Phone 734-463-1234

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Saraswat called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

Present: Chair Hollie Saraswat, Commissioners Joe Hawthorne, Sidney Filippis, and Zach Funk

Also present: Planning and Community Development Director Greta Bolhuis and City Commission Liaison Joe Elliott

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Funk made a motion, seconded by Filippis, to approve the April 6, 2026 meeting minutes.

There was a voice vote

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. MSHDA GRANT DISCUSSION

The sub-committee discussed the following items:

- What are we trying to accomplish? What is our north star? What is the ultimate goal? What information do we want?
- Create a schedule with milestones
- The Planning Commission defines compatibility as...
- Create some consensus around the desire changes
- Why do we need a compatibility ordinance?
 - o Entry/exit level homes to stay + preservation of housing stock
 - o Affordability
 - o Massing and sizing
 - o Neighborhood character
 - o Trees/greenspace
- Homework: everyone to come with the definition of residential compatibility in their own words and why it's important

5. ADJOURNMENT

Saraswat offered a motion, seconded by Hawthorne, to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

There was a voice vote

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY