

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
(KMCP)**

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

**PREPARED BY:**

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**Approved by KMCP on**

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## **Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission (KMCP) 2017 Annual Report**

In Kalamazoo County, the planning and zoning process is done individually by each municipality. The Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission (KMCP) is limited to an advisory and recommending role in relation to the local planning commissions. This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA) for Planning Commissions to prepare an annual report. In 2010-2016, KMCP activities were reported in conjunction with the Annual Report of the County Department of Planning and Development, but starting in 2017, a separate report will be prepared.

### **1. Membership.**

The 11 members of the County Planning Commission in 2017 were:

John Gisler, alternate Tracy Hall (County Commissioners)

Joel Amos

Charles Alexander

Sandra Bliesener

Vincent Carahaly (Vice Chair)

Steven Cook

Martin Janssen (Secretary)

Heather Ricketts

Neil Sikora (Chair)

Barbara Sloan

Karl Westra

### **2. Meetings.**

The KMCP met six times in 2017, one of which did not have quorum. This meets the requirements of the MPEA (minimum four meetings a year).

### **3. Kalamazoo County Master Plan.**

Work continued on the new County Master Plan through 2017. Members of the steering committee visited several local Planning Commissions in January 2017, continuing the visits which were started in the fall of 2016. A draft of the Plan was reviewed and edited over a period of several months, with a presentation to the County Board of Commissioners on December 19, 2017 to request approval to submit the Master Plan for public review.

The public review period ended in late March of 2018, with final approval and adoption of the Master Plan on June 5, 2018. The Master Plan is available on the Kalamazoo County website at [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com). A project website was created during the process and will be available through 2018 at [www.kalcountymasterplan.org](http://www.kalcountymasterplan.org). The Master Plan's Action Plan is attached to this

report, with plans to organize a training session for Planning Commissioners soon after the Master Plan's approval in June 2018.

#### 4. Zoning

The KMCPC waived its right to review zoning in 1983 and does not comment on zoning in the local communities.

#### 5. Plan Reviews and PA 116 Applications.

Traditionally the KMCPC only meets if there are action items for the agenda. During the meetings in 2017, one local Master Plan was reviewed for the City of Kalamazoo. An amendment to a local Master Plan was reviewed for Comstock Township. A Master Plan update was reviewed for Oshtemo Township. The Kalamazoo County Master Plan draft was also discussed several times, and a final resolution to recommend approval and adoption of the Master Plan by the County Board of Commissioners was approved at the May 3, 2018 KMCPC meeting.

The KMCPC received four Notices of Intent to Plan from local Planning Commissions. They were from Charleston, Cooper and Oshtemo townships, and the Village of Schoolcraft. These notices are the first step in the process of writing either a new Master Plan, or an update to an existing Master Plan. A Master Plan has to be reviewed every 5 years, with the local Planning Commission deciding whether amendments are necessary at the time.

KMCPC provided comments to the local Planning Commissions about the plans that it reviewed. There were no PA 116 applications to review in 2017.

#### 6. Actions by the legislative body - County Board of Commissioners.

A resolution was passed by the County Board of Commissioners in relation to the Master Plan process, namely a resolution to exempt the KMCPC from preparing capital improvements program reports. It was passed on May 3, 2017. The County's CIP program continues unchanged after the Master Plan has been approved.

The County Board of Commissioners heard a presentation of the Master Plan at their Committee of the Whole meeting on December 19, 2017. KMCPC staff also presented a request for approval to distribute the proposed Master Plan to local municipalities, other entities and the public for purposes of review and comment. This request was granted at the County Board of Commissioners' meeting on January 16, 2018.

County Commissioner John Gisler continued as the KMCPC liaison to the County Board of Commissioners. In addition, Commissioner Tracy Hall was named as an alternate. Three new KMCPC members were appointed in 2017 as the previous members' terms ended or they resigned.

#### 7. Countywide Zoning and Future Land Use Maps.

The County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator has prepared a countywide compilation of the local zoning and future land use maps. The local

zoning and land use classifications have been combined into general categories to allow for a countywide overview of the local maps. The countywide maps are available both as printed and electronic versions. The Generalized Zoning map is also available at the County GIS mapping website. Both maps are included in the County Master Plan.

8. The KMCPC agendas, packets and meeting minutes.

Starting from 2015 the agendas, packets and meeting minutes are available at <http://www.kalcounty.com/Directory/boards/planningcommission.htm>