

CITY OF AURORA  
OHIO  
**Master Plan Review Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2017

The Master Plan Review Commission met in a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in Council Chambers of City Hall. Denise Januska, Director, Planning, Zoning, and Building Division called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present:	Matt Gilmore Shannon Keibler Jennifer Stanley Laura Stith Joan Tomko Evan Webster Lucy Zmary
Absent:	Nick Austin Dale Moravec
Also Present:	Denise Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning, & Building Division Meredith Davis, Asst. Director of Planning, Zoning, & Building Division Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor George Horvat, City Council President James Kraus, Director, Parks and Recreation Nathaniel Lee, GIS Technician Marie Lawrie, Secretary

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin administered the oath of office to all members present.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Ms. Januska introduced Emil Liszniansky of Envision Group LLC. Mr. Liszniansky gave a brief background of himself and Envision Group LLC. He stated that his firm specializes in planning, design, and implementation strategies. He has over a decade of experience working with larger firms. His background includes Civil Engineering, Planning, and Law. His focus will be on implementing the ideas existing in the Master Plan presently, as well as expanding ideas for the Town Center and Depot District. He mentioned Naylor Wellman of Chagrin Falls as a technical advisory team member that specializes in Historic Preservation. He stated that there may be an opportunity to utilize the Downtown Redevelopment District program through the State of Ohio. Finally, he stated that his focus will be to maintain the identity and values of the community and update the Master Plan with that in mind.

Ms. Januska introduced City Council President George Horvat. He thanked the members for their willingness to volunteer for this commission. He further stated the efforts of the group would be valuable.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL:**

Ms. Januska opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Gilmore nominated Laura Stith. Ms. Stanley seconded that nomination. Hearing no further names, Ms. Januska closed the nominations for Chairman.

#### **MOTION: To elect Laura Stith as Chairman of the Master Plan Review Commission**

Mr. Gilmore moved; Ms. Stanley seconded and the motion carried, 7-0, on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Gilmore, Ms. Stanley, Ms. Stith, Ms. Keibler, Ms. Tomko, Mr. Webster, Ms. Zmary

Nays: None

Ms. Januska opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Gilmore nominated Dale Moravec for Vice Chairman. Ms. Stanley seconded the nomination. Hearing no further names, Ms. Januska closed the nominations for Vice Chairman.

#### **MOTION: To elect Dale Moravec as Vice Chairman of the Master Plan Review Commission**

Mr. Gilmore moved; Ms. Stanley seconded and the motion carried, 7-0, on a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Gilmore, Ms. Stanley, Ms. Stith, Ms. Keibler, Ms. Tomko, Mr. Webster, Ms. Zmary

Nays: None

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Januska turned the meeting over to Ms. Stith.

### **COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS:**

Each member present stated their name and shared a basic background about themselves to the group.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

Denise Januska addressed the Commission. She explained that the Master Plan is the City's vision for 20 years into the future. It is updated every 5 years. Administration refers to the Master Plan for decision-making. The Commission will look at the previous recommendations and decide what is still important, and what needs updating. Management and preservation of our resources will be discussed. Historic areas will be identified and discussed. The infrastructure will be accessed including transportation and water and sewer. The City tax base will be a topic of discussion. Recreation will be a large part of our discussion due to the extensive parks owned by the City. Housing

and schools will tie in with these topics. Inventory and analysis will be a topic of the next meeting.

Ms. Januska stated the accomplishments of the last 5 years from the Master Plan including an updated sign code, the rezoning of the Mixed Use area and advances in connectivity. The Town Center and Depot District have been a focus of the last 3 years.

Ms. Januska then asked the Commission to read through the previous recommendations and be prepared to discuss the 3 most important to each member as a citizen of Aurora.

**COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin addressed the Commission. She thanked them for their willingness to do this important and interesting job. She explained that the Master Plan is a guide and not necessarily a mandate. She discussed some of the factors involved in implementing the recommendations of the Commission including economic and practical circumstances. She stated that in the last 3 years, the Master Plan has served as a guide on many projects. She described Aurora as a growing community which values its history, architecture, green space, and rural charm. She mentioned amenities that newer, younger residents are looking for. Together all these topics will combine to become the updated recommendations of the Master Plan update. She explained that each member was chosen for their unique perspectives and backgrounds. She stated that she was looking forward to their recommendations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jeff Clark, 60 East Pioneer Trail, Chairman of the Landmark Commission and Board Member of the Aurora Historical Society was on hand to make public comment. He introduced himself to the members and offered to provide them with any information at his disposal to help them.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Webster moved to adjourn; Ms. Stanley seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.