



## Planning and Economic Development

Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

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From: Sara Roediger and Chris McLeod  
To: Planning Commission and City Council  
Date: January 29, 2024  
Re: Annual Joint Planning Commission and City Council Meeting

As is now tradition in Rochester Hills, the PED staff is excited to once again meet with you for this annual joint meeting. This meeting is an essential one, intended to bring these two bodies together to discuss overarching policies and gain direction that guides the development of the city. This year, the topics for discussion focus on parks, natural features and the master plan update, all of which have significant impacts on the city's physical development and overall quality of life.

### **Park Concept Plans**

The PNR Department has been working with Niagra Merano over the past several months to develop concept plans for four parks in the City: Nowicki, Bloomer, Spencer, and Brooklands. Ken Elwert and the consultant team will be at the meeting to present the final concept plans for discussion.

### **Natural Features Inventory Update**

The City has been continuing its study of the Natural Features Inventory with ASTI to update the inventory that was originally completed in 2005. The completed inventory is attached, and we will provide an overview and review next steps.

### **Master Plan Update**

The PED team, in conjunction with Giffels Webster, kicked off the Master Plan update in late 2023. The update will take place throughout the year with an anticipated adoption in 2025, will include multiple opportunities for public engagement. Pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and Redevelopment Ready Communities' best practices, an update of the Master Land Use Plan is required every five years. We look forward to updating the plans to reflect the many initiatives that the City has undertaken in the last five years, reflecting the changing trends and desires of the City, and laying the groundwork for the City's future initiatives.

### **Other Zoning Initiatives**

A number of the applications and requests that have come forward in the last year have prompted discussions amongst the Planning Commission as well as City staff on the best practices to deal with emerging trends. Some of these topics that City staff will continue to discuss and potentially bring ordinance language forward on include the following. If there are other topics you would like staff to research please bring your comments to the meeting!

1. Keeping of Chickens
2. Accessory Structures
3. Maximum Size of Houses on Small Lots
4. Gateway and Streetscape Implementation

### **PED Annual Report**

Section 125.3819 of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended) requires the Planning Commission to prepare an annual report documenting its operations and the status of planning activities. The PED Department has expanded the scope of the report to further document the activities of all of the boards and commissions staffed by the PED Department and PED staff. By doing so, the report provides a more complete picture of the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development activities in the City. The attached

Annual Report fulfills the state obligation for 2023 and provides information on future goals and priorities planned for 2024.

The only action that is being requested at this meeting is for the Planning Commission to accept the 2023 Planning and Economic Development (PED) Annual Report, and the City Council will be asked to accept the report at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on February 12, 2024. Below is a motion for consideration for acceptance:

**MOTION** by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the Rochester Hills Planning Commission hereby accepts the 2023 Annual Report for the Planning and Economic Development Department.