

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
MARQUETTE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
JANUARY 06, 2026

A regular meeting of the Marquette City Planning Commission was duly called and held at 6:00p.m. on Tuesday, January 06, 2026, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Planning Commission (PC) members present (7): M. Rayner, J. Guter, N. Vermaat, J. Fitkin, Chair Kevin Clegg, vice-Chair A. Wilkinson, S. Lawry

PC Members absent: D. Fetter

Staff present: City Planner and Zoning Administrator D. Stensaas; Zoning Official A. Landers; Deputy City Manager S. Hobbins

AGENDA

It was moved by M. Rayner, seconded by N. Vermaat, and carried 7-0 to amend the agenda with the addition of an item to New Business for the purpose of nominating a new representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals, as requested by City Staff.

MINUTES

It was moved by J. Guter, seconded by S. Lawry, and carried 7-0 to approve the minutes of the December 02, 2025, meeting with a change to the date in the subheader.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Nobody wished to comment.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Nobody wished to comment.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination for Member Representative for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

D. Stensaas said that it is necessary for the board to nominate a candidate to become the new Planning Commission representative to the BZA, because D. Fetter will not be able to continue in that role due to new job requirements that will make it hard to attend the board's meetings.

A. Wilkinson said that he was willing to serve in that capacity.

It was moved by S. Lawry, seconded by M. Rayner, and carried 7-0 to nominate A. Wilkinson to serve as the next Planning Commission representative to the BZA.

TRAINING

A. Article: *The Future is Electric and Youth Focused, Planning magazine, Spring, 2025.*

The Planning Commission and Staff briefly discussed the article, which D. Stensaas said was selected due to the subject of the work session on active transportation planning.

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WORK SESSION ON REPORTS/PLANS/ORDINANCES

A. Draft Active Transportation Plan by Toole Design

K. Clegg asked D. Stensaas if he had anything to share.

D. Stensaas said that he doesn't have a specific approach in mind for providing recommendations, but has thoughts on the Draft Active Transportation Plan (ATP) that he will reserve for later. He said that much of what needs to be addressed is found in the recommendations of Figure 64 and Table 12. He also said that he found many errors in the descriptions of the bikeway segments shown in the Figure, which are related to the routes described in the Table.

A lengthy discussion of Draft ATP issues followed.

The following items related to the Draft Plan were recommended by the Planning Commission:

- Requesting that Toole Design review the area and connections between Altamont St. and Bothwell Middle School, for the inclusion of a recommended bicycle route to the final ATP.
- Requesting that Toole Design review the US-41/M-28/S. Front St. corridor in South Marquette for recommendations that are more practical than building a pedestrian and bike bridge to facilitate crossings south of the Genesee St. intersection.

Other notable comments on the Draft Plan were made, as follows:

- S. Lawry commented that winter sidewalk and trail maintenance has declined in the past 20 years, and said that maintenance of those facilities should be upgraded as a high priority.
- J. Fitkin mentioned that increasing bicycle mode share is important, and facilitating biking wherever and however possible is needed. D. Stensaas said that completing a significant portion of the bike facilities recommended in the Community Master Plan would allow the City to publish and distribute maps of the routes and facilities, which would boost bike mode share. He said he had hoped to do that some time ago, but progress on facility implementation has been slow.
- D. Stensaas said there are no crosswalks on Fair Ave., or curb ramps at the streets that end on Fair Ave. across from Marquette Senior High School, and this area was not addressed in the Draft ATP, but it is a significant community destination and should be addressed. He said he witnessed an instructor being struck by a car crossing Lynn Ave. in the morning peak traffic about five years ago and became aware of the lack of crosswalks afterwards.
- S. Lawry said that the street reconstruction project on Wright St. would need to be revised with buffered bike lanes to meet the Draft ATP recommendation. D. Stensaas said that he will talk with the City Engineer about this, but the project was approved months ago, and changing the layout would probably not be a practical option at this point.
- D. Stensaas said that he will send a list of the errors in Figure 64 to Sean, for Toole Design.

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B. Land Development Code amendments

A. Landers presented two subsections of section 54.705(A) that Staff is proposing to amend. These were included in the published agenda materials. The first subsection discussed was (3)(b), and the second subsection discussed was (6). The Planning Commission discussed both items and agreed that both proposed amendments were appropriate. The items will be compiled into a document of proposed amendments that will be subject to a public hearing sometime during the spring months.

COMMISSION and STAFF COMMENTS

J. Fitkin said that there will be a Repair Café held at the Peter White Public Library this Saturday, which is helpful in keeping things out of our landfill by getting repairs done on household items by volunteers.

K. Clegg said that there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission that he hopes will be filled soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair K. Clegg adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm

David Stensaas

Prepared by D. Stensaas, City Planner and Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission Staff Liaison