2025 Annual Report
City of Stanton Planning Commission

Submitted: February 2026

Introduction

The Stanton Planning Commission respectfully submits the following Annual Report summarizing its activities, actions, and accomplishments for the 2025 calendar year. Throughout 2025, the Planning Commission remained committed to responsible land use planning, economic development, regulatory review, and implementation of the City's long-term vision.

Membership and Attendance

The Planning Commission held eleven (11) regular meetings in 2025. Commission membership and meeting attendance were as follows:

- Don Smucker, Chairperson – 11 meetings
- Tammy Ferguson, Vice-Chairperson – 10 meetings
- Lori Hufford, Secretary – 11 meetings
- Jamie Petersen – 11 meetings
- Bill Ferguson – 10 meetings
- Chuck Miel – 8 meetings
- Scott Giddings – 8 meetings

Chairperson Don Smucker resigned following the November 4, 2025 meeting after a long tenure of dedicated service to the Planning Commission and the City of Stanton.

Training and Professional Development

On January 11, 2025, members of the Stanton Planning Commission attended the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) training titled "Planning and Zoning Essentials." This session

was conducted as a joint training opportunity with other Planning Commissions throughout Montcalm County. The training was organized by Stanton City Manager, Rachael Coffey, and provided commissioners with foundational and advanced knowledge regarding statutory authority, zoning administration, public hearing procedures, and best practices in community planning.

Major Actions and Activities in 2025

Date	Action	Description
February 4, 2025	Special Use Permit Amendment	Amended Special Use Permit for Lucky Buds, 207 E. Main Street.
April 1, 2025	Site Plan & Special Use Permit Approval	Approved site plan and Special Use Permit for Taco Bell, 340 S. State Street, representing one of the most significant new commercial development projects in recent years.
September 2, 2025	Site Plan Approval	Approved site plan to convert a two-unit dwelling into a three-unit apartment at 339 W. Main Street.
October 7, 2025	Special Use Permit & Site Plan Approval	Approved Special Use Permit and site plan for Trinity Church parking lot installation at 205 E. Bellevue Street.
October 7, 2025	Site Plan Approval	Approved site plan for White Pine District Library parking lot expansion at 514 New Street.
2025	Capital Improvement Plan	Approved the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2025–2031.
2025	By-Laws Review	Reviewed and updated the Planning Commission By-Laws.
2025	Annual Report Approval	Approved the 2024 Planning Commission Annual Report.

Master Plan Update and Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Status

In 2025, the Planning Commission completed a comprehensive update to the City's Master Plan. The Commission contracted with McKenna to draft the plan at a total cost of $20,000. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) provided a grant in the amount of $18,750 to support this effort. The updated Master Plan was forwarded to the City Commission and formally adopted on August 12, 2025.

Following adoption of the Master Plan, the City achieved official Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Essentials Status through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). This designation confirms that Stanton has adopted planning, zoning, transparency, and development review practices consistent with statewide best practices. Achieving RRC Essentials Status positions the City to attract new investment by demonstrating to developers and businesses that Stanton offers predictable processes, clear regulations, and a community committed to responsible growth. This achievement enhances the City's competitiveness for future development opportunities, grant funding, and economic expansion initiatives.

Goals for 2026 and Beyond

The Planning Commission will focus on implementation strategies identified in the newly adopted Master Plan. Priority areas include:

- Development of a sidewalk improvement plan.
- Downtown enhancement and revitalization efforts.
- Park improvements and recreational enhancements.
- Continued support of responsible residential and commercial growth.

The Commission looks forward to continued collaboration with the City Commission, staff, residents, and community partners to advance these initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

City of Stanton Planning Commission