

Bloomington Planning Commission 2020 Work Plan

The Planning Commission is a seven member advisory commission, appointed by the City Council and charged with the following duties (City Code Section 2.85.02):

- (a) Hold hearings, review applications, make recommendations, and, where applicable, act upon applications as set forth in the city code;
- (b) Review and make recommendations on variance and appeal applications where such review is required of the Planning Commission by the city code;
- (c) Review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to zoning, subdivision and transportation provisions of the city code;
- (d) Review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and district plans;
- (e) Review and make recommendations on transportation issues including transportation planning, street extensions and modifications, street layout and striping, on street parking, neighborhood traffic plans, transportation grant applications, transit systems, pedestrian ways and bicycle traffic; and
- (f) Other duties as may be assigned by the City Council or by state law.

In 2020, in addition to continued training and review of land use and development applications, the Planning Commission will focus on the following special projects:

1. **Code Amendments:** Reviewing and making recommendations on proposed City Code amendments. In 2020, potential Code amendments are listed below in rough priority order recognizing that not all may be completed in 2020 dependent on staffing levels and development activity.
 - a. Update standards related to stormwater management and bluff protection to align with new Lower Minnesota River Watershed District standards (Planning Division, Public Works - Water Resources);
 - b. Create and adopt standards for restaurants and food trucks (Planning Division);
 - c. Codify environmental review process requirements (Planning Division);
 - d. Establish best practices and standards for sustainable building and site design (Planning Division and Public Works – Sustainability);
 - e. Update Sign Ordinance (Chapter 19, Article X) (Planning Division); and
 - f. Update requirements pertaining to the review and approval of recreational vehicles (Planning Division);
 - g. Consider potential health related Code amendments (Public Health and Planning Divisions);
 - h. Review landscape and tree preservation standards for potential amendment (Planning Division and Public Works Department);
 - i. Update standards for small cell antennas and towers in the public right-of-way (Legal and Planning Division); and
 - j. Annual miscellaneous issues ordinance (Planning Division).
2. **Plans & Special Projects:** Review and make recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan, District Plans, Small Area Plans and other special projects. 2020 projects included:

- a. Parks Master Plan update (Parks Division lead, Planning Division);
 - b. Lyndale Ave Suburban Retrofit Strategy (Special Projects & Initiatives lead, Planning Division);
 - c. Portland Gateway redevelopment workshop - CNU Legacy Project (Planning Division);
 - d. Create a policy prohibiting dockless bike and scooter programs (Public Works lead, Planning Division);
 - e. Develop a strategy to address, and potentially regulate, short-term rentals (Planning Division); and
 - f. Identify barriers to commercial redevelopment (HRA and Planning Divisions).
3. **Rezoning & Reguiding:** Reviewing and making recommendations on privately or City initiated rezoning and reguiding. Planned 2020 projects include:
- a. Rezoning to implement updated Bluff Districts (Planning Division);
 - b. Rezoning of auto dealer sites from I-3 to C-1 (Planning Division); and
 - c. Innovation & Technology (IT) Rezonings, focused on properties initially proposed to be zoned Innovation and Technology (IT) (Planning Division).
4. **Ongoing Initiatives:** Reviewing and making recommendations on long range planning, sustainability initiatives, community engagement initiatives, and alternative transportation issues as they arise. Also involves participation in and coordination of multi-agency projects (e.g., Mn Valley State Trail).
- a. Assist with redevelopment initiatives (multiple departments); and
 - b. Assist with housing initiatives (HRA lead, multiple departments).