

Memorandum



Date: May 4, 2026
To: Buchanan Planning Commission
From: Kristen Gundersen, Planning and Community Development Director
Subject: **Planning Commission Vacancy Interviews**

Background

Earlier this year Ralph McDonald resigned from the Commission, creating one vacancy that needs to be filled. Two applications have been received and are attached. Staff has contacted each to confirm they will be able to interview at the beginning of the meeting on May 12th. Interviews typically take approximately 10-15 minutes to learn why the applicant wants to be involved and to explain the expectations of membership on the Commission.

Existing Membership

There are seven members on the Planning Commission which includes one City Commissioner. Terms end June 30th each year and appointments are made for 3-year terms or to fill an unexpired term. Members can remain on the Commission until an appointment has been made. Below is the existing membership with term expirations:

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Vacant	2025
Tony Houser	2026
Jen Gerry	2027
Jake Brown	2026
Matt Pleasant	2026
Peter Lysy	2025
Dan Vigansky	2026 City Commissioner

Mr. Lysy and the vacant position will have terms expiring in June 2028.

The Planning Commission Bylaws state “members must be qualified electors of the City of Buchanan or another local unit of government except that no more than 2 (2) members may reside outside of the city

Recommendation

Please interview the two applicants and make a recommendation to the City Commission regarding an appointment.



PC

302 Redbud Trail North
Buchanan, MI 49107
Tel: (269) 695-3844
Fax: (269) 695-4330

Application for Board, Commission, Committee or Council Appointment

Please note that all information provided on this application is public information and potentially subject to disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, please do not list confidential information. Applications are kept on file for three calendar years.

Please return the completed form to the City Clerk's Office or clerk@cityofbuchanan.com

Applicant Information

Name of Applicant: Randy M. Hendrixson

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City: Buchanan State: MI Zip Code: 49107

Telephone Number: [REDACTED] Second Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Name of Employer: Building 324

General Question

Are you a registered voter within the City of Buchanan? Yes: No:

Do you own property within the City of Buchanan? Yes: No:

Do you own a business located within the City of Buchanan? Yes: No:

Please explain why you are interested in being appointed to a board.

I am interested in serving on the planning commision.

As a city property owner I believe I bring a great vantage point to the group.

Please describe your background, ability, skills or special qualifications that would strengthen the board you are interested in.

Extensive knowledge, experience and service to the City of Buchanan and surrounding area.

Served for 10 years on Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce as board member and executive director.

311020211

Please explain your professional experience and background:

Business owner responsible for helping over 30+ businesses get started and thrive in the City of Buchanan.

Extensive knowledge of business, economic & non profit operations in the City of Buchanan.

I currently own and operate 4 businesses in the city including the oldest business in the City of Buchanan.

Please explain any organizations or community groups you have been involved with:

5+ years on the DDA including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary. I serve as a Trustee on the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, Board member for the Buchanan Area MGCF,

Original board member for the Buchanan Promise board, 10+ years Board Member SW Michigan United Way, 10+ years Board Member Corewell Health

Served as board member and Chairperson for Live Buchanan board, Buchanan Common Board for 10+ years, etc

Have you attended a meeting, reviewed an agenda packet, visited the city's website, or talked with others to better understand the board you are requesting appointment to?

Yes. I have for years attended city boards and commission meetings.

Do you have other information or thoughts you would like to share that should be considered when the application is reviewed?

I believe my experience and time served with city-wide operations, business, non-profit and volunteer boards

What is your availability: Morning Afternoon Evening
 Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

If appointed do you agree to the following:

Attend at least 75% of all applicable meetings? Yes: No:
Attend any joint meetings or training provided by the City? Yes: No:
Abide by the City's Ethics Policy? Yes: No:
Abide by the applicable adopted Bylaws? Yes: No:

Signature: Randy Hendriksen

Date: 3-10-2026

Appointed Board, Commission, Committee and Council Opportunities

The City has many boards, commissions, committees and councils that work best when composed of diverse individuals with relevant qualifications. Please visit the city's website www.cityofbuchanan.com to learn more about the different opportunities. In most cases, the board, commission, committee or council has a rolling membership with members appointed in the summer to a three-year term. Please review the boards, commissions, committees and councils listed below and check the one(s) you are interested in joining. If interested in more than one board, please provide preference order.

Please also identify your related experience, and feel free to apply even if you do not have the suggested experience or professional background. The City needs citizens with diverse backgrounds on its boards and commissions, and we appreciate your application!

Board of Review

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Banking/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | Property Appraisal/Assessing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Real Estate/Development/Law (no agents or brokers) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> | Real Estate/Development/Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Banking/Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |

Buchanan Area Recreation Board (B.A.R.B.)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Forestry/Landscape Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance or Property Maintenance/Leasing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fitness/Recreation/Sports/Coaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |

Buchanan Fine Arts Council

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance/Budgeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Performing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> | Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |

Buchanan Tree Friends

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Horticulture/Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Forestry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fundraising/Budgeting | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advertising/Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | |

Common Committee

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Budgeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Compensation Committee

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sector Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Making | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Construction Board of Appeals

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture/Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building/Construction/Trades | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Downtown Design Review Committee

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture/Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance or Property Maintenance/Leasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation/History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

District Library Board

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Making | <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting/Finance/Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Planning/Grants and Endowments | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Buchanan Farmers' Market (subcommittee of the Common Committee)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Budgeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Friends of McCoy's Creek Trail (subcommittee of the B.A.R.B.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling/Walking/Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Friends of Oakridge Cemetery

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture/Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Joint Water Sewer Board

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Banking/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

One Buchanan

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting/Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

X

Planning Commission

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture or Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Banking/Finance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning/Land Use/Zoning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building/Construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land or Real Estate Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Engineering |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other business use of prior and existing properties | |

Zoning Board of Appeals

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture or Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning/Land Use/Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building/Construction or Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Land or Real Estate Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

March 2026

Application for Board, Commission, Committee or Council Appointment

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Please return the completed form to the City Clerk's Office or

clerk@cityofbuchanan.com **Applicant Information**

Name of Applicant:

John

Wregglesworth _____

Mailing Address:

City: Buchanan State: MI Zip Code: 49107 Telephone Number: _____

Second Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Name of Employer: Affordable Asphalt and Bulldozing

General Question

Are you a registered voter within the City of Buchanan? Yes: No: Do

you own property within the City of Buchanan? Yes: No:

Do you own a business located within the City of Buchanan? Yes: No:

Please explain why you are interested in being appointed to a board.

I am interested in joining the Planning Committee because I've lived in Buchanan my whole life and this town means a lot to me. I've always tried to do my part, whether that meant working with the city crews when they needed help or helping to execute Thrill on the Hill all those summers. When something needed done, I showed up and helped where I could.

I want to see Buchanan continue to improve and grow the right way without losing what makes it special. Serving on the planning committee would give me the chance to give back to the town that's given me so much to help make sure decisions are made with common sense and the best

interests of the community in mind.

Please describe your background, ability, skills or special qualifications that would strengthen the board you are interested in.

I bring a lifelong connection to Buchanan along with practical, hands-on experience that I believe would be valuable to the planning committee. I have lived here my entire life and have always taken pride in helping the city whenever I could.

I am also a 25-year business owner in Buchanan, operating an asphalt and excavating company that has worked consistently with the city throughout that time. Through this work, I have a strong understanding of how city projects function from the ground up-starting with planning and budgeting, through construction and coordination, all the way to project completion. I understand what works, what doesn't and how decisions made early can impact costs, timelines and the final result.

My experience gives me practical, common-sense perspective. I know what it takes to turn plans into finished projects, and I believe that understanding would help strengthen the board and support smart, responsible growth for Buchanan.

www.cityofbuchanan.com

Please explain your professional experience and background:

Please see above answers.

Please explain any organizations or community groups you have been involved with:

- Buchanan Westerners Riding Club - 15 years
- Thrill on the Hill Summer - all years

Have you attended a meeting, reviewed an agenda packet, visited the city's website, or talked with others to better understand the board you are requesting appointment to?

Yes this came about when I interviewed for the DDA, afterward Kalla and Tony reached out to me about my interest in the Planning Committee, which I think is actually a better fit for me with my experience.

Do you have other information or thoughts you would like to share that should be considered when the application is reviewed?

No I think the rest of the questions have covered that.

What is your availability: ___ Morning ___ Afternoon ___x_ Evening


Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday ___ Friday If appointed do you agree to the following:

Attend at least 75% of all applicable meetings? Yes: No: ___

Attend any joint meetings or training provided by the City? Yes: No: ___

Abide by the City's Ethics Policy? Yes: No: ___

Abide by the applicable adopted Bylaws? Yes: No: ___

Signature:  _____

Date: 4-2-26

www.cityofbuchanan.com

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Please also identify your related experience, and feel free to apply even if you do not have the suggested experience or professional background. The City needs citizens with diverse backgrounds on its boards and commissions, and we appreciate your application!

_____ **Board of Review**

___ Banking/Finance ___ Property Appraisal/Assessing

___ Real Estate/Development/Law (no agents or brokers)

___ Other

_____ **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**

___ Construction ___ Real Estate/Development/Law

___ Environmental Regulations ___ Banking/Finance

___ Other

_____ **Buchanan Area Recreation Board (B.A.R.B).**

___ Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations ___ Forestry/Landscape Architecture ___
Finance or Property Maintenance/Leasing ___ Fitness/Recreation/Sports/Coaching ___ Other

_____ **Buchanan Fine Arts Council**

___ Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations ___ Finance/Budgeting ___
Performing Arts ___ Event Planning
___ Other

_____ **Buchanan Tree Friends**

___ Horticulture/Landscape Architecture ___ Forestry
___ Fundraising/Budgeting ___ Advertising/Marketing ___ Other

www.cityofbuchanan.com

_____ **Common Committee**

___ Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations ___ Finance/Budgeting ___
Performing Arts ___ Event Planning
___ Other

_____ **Compensation Committee**

___ Budgeting and Finance ___ Public Sector Compensation ___ Policy Making
___ Other

_____ **Construction Board of Appeals**

___ Architecture/Design ___ Engineering
___ Building/Construction/Trades ___ Law
___ Other

_____ **Downtown Design Review Committee**

Architecture/Design Construction/Development Finance or Property
Maintenance/Leasing Historic Preservation/History Other

District Library Board

Policy Making Budgeting/Finance/Fundraising Strategic Planning/Grants and
Endowments Knowledge of Libraries Other

**Buchanan Farmers' Market (subcommittee of the Common
Committee)**

Advertising/Marketing Event Planning
 Finance/Budgeting Entrepreneurial
 Other

Friends of McCoy's Creek Trail (subcommittee of the B.A.R.B.)

Bicycling/Walking/Walking Environment
 Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations Parks and Recreation Other

www.cityofbuchanan.com

Friends of Oakridge Cemetery

Funeral Professional History
 Horticulture/Landscape Architecture Law
 Other

Joint Water Sewer Board

Engineering Banking/Finance Public Health Other

One Buchanan

Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations Social Services
 Event Planning Budgeting/Finance Other

Planning Commission

Architecture or Landscape Architecture Banking/Finance Urban Planning/Land Use/Zoning Building/Construction Land or Real Estate Development Civil Engineering Other

Zoning Board of Appeals

Architecture or Landscape Architecture Urban Planning/Land Use/Zoning Building/Construction or Engineering Land or Real Estate Development Other

March 2026