

From: [Debra Walling](#)
To: [REDACTED] "[Christina Pitts](#)"
Cc: [City Council Internal](#); [Arthur W. Bryant](#); [Frank Schulte](#); [Susan Como](#); [Ashley Jankowski](#); [Laura Haw](#); [Tim Tomlinson](#); [Paul Antolin](#)
Subject: Response to October 15, 2025 Correspondences
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 8:26:18 PM

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Hello Ms. Aldrich & Ms. Pitts:

My response to your written communications to the Planning Commission and to the City Clerk, dated October 15, 2025, and your verbal comments during the October 20, 2025, City Council meeting, concerning alleged OMA violations and recent FOIA response is below. City Attorney Tomlinson will address your lawn sign enforcement complaints separately.

State law and the Grosse Pointe Woods Zoning Ordinance require the Planning Commission to conduct public hearings for certain matters, such as rezoning requests, but those laws and ordinances do not require a vote of the Planning Commission to set the date of the public hearing. The Planning Commission Bylaws state that the Chair and the Building Official set the agenda for the meeting. The fact that the Planning Commission set a public hearing date at its meeting in March 2025 for April 2025 for a rezoning matter due to certain circumstances does not change the law or the Planning Commission Bylaws, nor does it establish a pattern or practice, nor does failure to repeat that isolated instance constitute a denial of due process. Moreover, contrary to your assertion, the Planning Commission is not a legislative body; but, it is a public body subject to the Open Meetings Act. As such, there is still no requirement that the Planning Commission must vote to set a date for a public hearing or to place any other item on its agenda. As you know, the public hearing notice provisions contained in state law, which are mirrored in the Grosse Pointe Woods Zoning ordinance, are being followed concerning the conditional zoning request on Mack Avenue.

As to your Open Meetings Act (OMA) violation accusation, please understand that Frank Schulte, Susan Como, and the City Planner are not a “public body”—either individually or collectively—subject to the OMA. Therefore, their meetings are not subject to the OMA. If a quorum of a public body is present for a meeting, then the OMA applies. I have no reason to believe that there was a quorum of any public body present during the Planning Commission agenda preparation by the Building Official, the City Planner, and the Chair of the Planning Commission. Inasmuch as setting a meeting agenda is not a “decision” of the public body, your recitation of OMA appellate opinions and principles are not applicable. Consequently, your collective concerns about these matters have been noted and reviewed, but they are unfounded.

Similarly, it is my understanding that your concerns about a delayed response to your recent FOIA request for a MSHDA Grant application are also unfounded and, as of today, moot because the responsive documents were made available within five (5) business days.

Sincerely,



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