



Planning Commission Minutes

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM
27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076

1. **Call to Order** at 7:07pm

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Abraham, Clarke, Hillman, Robinson, Nordmoe, Grewer, Hammond

Also Present: DDA Director Janet Bloom, DDA Project Coordinator Kennedy, Attorney Baker

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Abraham, seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the Meeting agenda.

Yes: Abraham, Clarke, Hillman, Robinson, Nordmoe, Grewer, Hammond

No: n/a

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hammond, Seconded by Commissioner Abraham to amend the agenda by adding a second Public Comment section as Item # 9.

Yes: Abraham, Clarke, Hillman, Robinson, Nordmoe, Grewer, Hammond

No: n/a

Motion carried.

5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A. Planning Commission Study Session Minutes June 16, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Nordmoe to approve the study session minutes of June 16, 2026.

Yes: Abraham, Clarke, Hillman, Robinson, Nordmoe, Grewer, Hammond

No: n/a

Motion carried.

B. Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Grewer, seconded by Commissioner Abraham to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 16, 2026.

Yes: Abraham, Clarke, Hillman, Robinson, Nordmoe, Grewer, Hammond

No: n/a

Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

John Sousanis, Rainbow Drive, expressed in part: He was happy with how the Master Plan has been discussed and was surprised this amendment was being put up for a vote at this time.

Autumn Sousanis, Rainbow Drive, expressed in part: She has reservations about artisanal manufacturing and is concerned that it could become light manufacturing because Lathrup Village has never had an industrial district before.

Shugmi Shumunov, expressed in part: He would like to be educated more on what constitutes artisanal manufacturing and inquired about how to lease coworking spaces.

Commissioner Hillman commented in part: This should be approached as it was with previously considered amendments, such as the solar panel ordinance and cryptocurrency, where the Commission is having a first look and providing feedback.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Artisanal Manufacturing

Two options were discussed: 1) allowing artisanal manufacturing by right, and 2) allowing it as a

Special Land Use, which would require the applicant to come before the Planning Commission. A Special Land Use would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and would take longer for approval because the Planning Commission would make a recommendation and City Council would have the final vote. Attorney Baker noted that this option would give the City more control over the process and allow for review and determination on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Hillman asked that what is permissible be kept separate from the definition and asked for feedback from the Commission regarding the definition.

Commissioner Grewer asked if there is a definition of light manufacturing.

Discussion included the distinction between light manufacturing and artisanal manufacturing, including the attached storefront.

Commissioner Hillman stated that there should be mention of an exclusion list to help make distinctions between light manufacturing and artisanal manufacturing.

Eric Pietsch participated in the discussion.

Commissioner Grewer asked how the definition would be used. It was discussed that the DDA would use the definition for administrative purposes to approve or deny applications.

Commissioner Hillman suggested having a visual on the screen with half of the screen showing the definition of light manufacturing and the other half showing the definition of artisanal manufacturing.

Commissioner Abraham asked if there was a deadline to meet. It was noted that there is currently no deadline.

Discussion included the definition of raw materials for artisanal and light manufacturing and the need for quantifiable and distinguishable language.

Commissioner Abraham expressed concern about the creation of 3D-printed weapons.

Commissioner Clarke responded that, according to the ordinance, there has to be a storefront or classes associated with the use. Discussion included keeping this concern in mind going forward

and considering how Special Land Use and other factors could be combined within the definition to address these concerns.

Permitted Use Discussion included the exclusion of the Commercial Vehicular District from the definition and regulation. Commissioner Hammond and Chair Hillman participated in the discussion.

Thomas Kennedy showed a map of zoning to the Commissioners and residents in attendance.

Discussion included concerns about potential loss of interest due to the length of time the Special Land Use process may take.

Discussion included where, and within what zoning areas, artisanal manufacturing is envisioned to occur.

Discussion included the reality of residential spaces being in the same space, beside, or behind these types of facilities.

Use Standards discussion included expanding the standards and getting specific about materials, storage, space, delivery, hazardous materials, and waste.

Discussion included having a level of detail similar to the City's regulations for coffee shops, while keeping the language broad enough for the City to enforce.

An option to explore providing examples was also discussed.

B. Master Plan Update

Discussion focused on the different sections that need updates that were presented at the open house held earlier that day.

9. Public Comment

Autumn Sousanis, Rainbow Drive, expressed in part: Asked what the City does not want in Lathrup Village. She raised concerns regarding anti-sweatshop protections and the possibility that piece-by-piece shops could easily turn into sweatshops. She raised concerns regarding round-the-clock working and fulfillment of orders and what this could mean for the City, which has been trying to have lights out and businesses shut down by 11:00pm every night. She raised

the issue of hours of operation. She stated that the City needs to approach this with power and not desperation. She expressed that she would love to see an art center and have the City viewed as a creative center. She also raised concerns regarding high-intensity heat and potentially prohibiting or establishing requirements related to heat.

John Sousanis, expressed in part: He noted that there was no specification regarding what stage of the process the ordinance was in. He stated that the City should not be desperate to engage people but should remain focused on safety. He also raised the issue of changing the Commission schedule.

10. Other Matters for Discussion

None.

11. General Communication

Updates from the Sirknow Group were discussed. Discussion emphasized prioritizing getting information to the community since many community members are invested in the process.

12. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Grewer, seconded by Commissioner Abraham to adjourn the meeting at 8:42pm.

Yes: Abraham, Clarke, Hillman, Robinson, Nordmoe, Grewer, Hammond

No: n/a

Motion carried.