

Plan Commission Job Description

PRIMARY DUTIES:

The plan commission is appointed to advise the governing body regarding community planning and land use management. The plan commission is responsible for developing and recommending the community plan and implementing policies, procedures and ordinances to the governing body for adoption. The commission is responsible for involving the public in planning and decision-making and must comply with applicable rules related to open meetings, ethical conduct, etc. The commission may be asked to review and/or decide the following matters: conditional use permits, rezonings, subdivision/land division plat approval, driveway permits, etc.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

The plan commission is responsible for reading and reviewing plan-related documents and background materials prior to meetings and hearings. Members are expected to listen to and consider staff presentations and public comments when making decisions. Commission members are expected to attend periodic training sessions to keep abreast of current trends and information and to better understand and fulfill its role. Special positions such as chair, vice-chair, and secretary will be elected after the plan commission is appointed.

TIME COMMITMENT:

The plan commission meets once a month for approximately two hours, depending upon the number and complexity of tasks on its agenda. Anticipate one hour of preparation time for each hour of meeting time. Plan commission terms last three years.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

The following skills and traits are desired of plan commission members:

- Attention to detail, open mindedness, patience, and willingness to listen and learn.
- Ability to work as a team and make decisions based on the best interests of the community.
- An understanding of the planning process, land use issues or law, construction and development practices, natural resources, or economic development.
- Ability to read maps and plans.
- Ability to speak and write clearly.

SUPERVISION:

The plan commission receives direction from, and is responsible to, the local governing body. The plan commission is supported by staff of the Planning and Zoning Department and contracted consultants.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

The plan commission conducts 95 percent of work indoors in an intellectual capacity, but occasionally visits outdoor sites for information gathering or inspection.

BENEFITS:

This is a voluntary position with a \$25 stipend per meeting. Funding for authorized training sessions is also available.

Adapted from *Recruiting and Retaining Qualified Plan Commissioners*. Douglas Miskowiak and Chin-Chun Tang. 2004. Center for Land Use Education. With credit to Waupaca County, Wisconsin and Lafayette County, Colorado.