Selected Reading List for the MSUE Citizen Planner Program – #4

What should be in every Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals Library

The primary purpose of this reading list is to provide citizen planners with references to the kind of background material they need to do the best possible job as a planning commissioner.

This reading list is neither exhaustive of materials available on the subjects listed, nor does it represent an endorsement of the accuracy or efficacy of any material presented. Many materials are listed from a wide variety of perspectives in order to ensure a representative sampling of materials from different points of view.

A secondary purpose of this reading list is to provide planning directors and consultants with references to materials that could bolster the local planning library. Last, this reading list is also provided as a source for reporters, citizens, students, developers, realtors and others interested in helping shape the future of Michigan’s communities.

If a publication is available online, the web address is listed at the end of the citation. All listings have been classified as basic, intermediate or advanced based on content. The classifications are defined and abbreviated as follows:

- Basic. Material that is easy to read, relatively short, and does not require much prior knowledge, but does not go into much depth on a subject.
- Intermediate. Material that is easy to read or written for a more sophisticated reader; material may be of any length and may or may not require some prior knowledge and goes into some depth on a subject.
- Advanced. Material of various reading levels that is generally longer and goes into greater depth, and requires some prior knowledge on a subject.

Session 4. Roles and Responsibilities, Part II: Zoning, Site Plans and Zoning Board of Appeals Process

Blaesser, Brian. Discretionary Land Use Controls: Avoiding Invitations to Abuse of Discretion, Thomson/West, 2002, 457 pages, hardcover.* [Advanced]
Corwin, Charles D. and Kurt H. Schindler; Land Use Series: “How to take Minutes For Administrative Decisions”; May 4, 2006; http://lu.msue.msu.edu/pamphlet/Zone/AcrobatPamphletMinutes.PDF (found at web page http://lu.msue.msu.edu/pamphlets.htm#Zone)

Schindler, Kurt H.; *Land Use Series*: “Restrictions on Zoning Authority”; May 16, 2002 (found at web page [http://lu.msue.msu.edu/pamphlets.htm#court](http://lu.msue.msu.edu/pamphlets.htm#court)) OR can be found at [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org) [this item periodically changes, thus wise to periodically check for an updated copy]


Wyckoff, Mark. “Nonconforming Uses: the What, the Why’s, and the Do’s, the Don’t’s” *MSPO Advisor*, June 1985, p. 1. [Basic]