Selected Reading List for the MSUE Citizen Planner Program – Top 25
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.

Top 25 Materials that Every Planning Department Should Have to Adequately Support Planning Commissioners

The following list represents basic material that every planning department should have, or be able to quickly obtain, to adequately support planning commissioners. The contents of these materials should be familiar to and understood by professionals in the planning department.

10. County Soil Survey* [Intermediate]
11. Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Trip Generation: A Recommended Practice, ITE Washington DC, 2001, 150 pages, hardcover.* [Advanced]
25. Subscription to the American Planning Association's Planners Advisory Service.* [Intermediate]