

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
Qianna Decker
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Jeanne Hess
Esteven Juarez

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioners Excused

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Hess and Juarez. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Public Comments

When an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

In-Person Comments

Michael Slowik, Public Relations Coordinator for the WMU Civil Discourse initiative WeTalk, described the One Small Step program and announced WMU would be a One Small Step recording site.

Call-In Comments

None

2022-00

Presentation: Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo

Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) Coordinator Kevin Ford and Kalamazoo Literacy Council Executive Director Michael Evans delivered a presentation entitled *FFE Committees of the Whole: Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, SPK Coordinator Ford and Executive Director Evans provided the following information:

- people who wanted to volunteer with the SPK initiatives should contact SPK Coordinator Ford.
- community members were needed to provide input regarding transportation needs. Transportation was an issue that impacted both the “Families” and “Jobs” focus areas.

Vice Mayor Cooney presented statistics on the poverty rate for various demographic groups in Kalamazoo County. Vice Mayor Cooney stated the City needed to do a lot more to address poverty, which was the City’s most important work.

Commissioner Decker stated the City was the “tide”; if the City rose, everyone else would too.

Commissioner Hoffman expressed support for Jobs, Family and Youth being the SPK focus areas.

Commissioner Praedel noted that multiple agencies were doing 2Gen work, and each of those agencies had multiple partners, which illustrated the City would not be able to do all the work but could be catalyst and convener. Commissioner Praedel confirmed the need for non-profit organizations to get multi-year funding. Commissioner Praedel suggested Curt Aardema as a resource for thinking around the issue of transportation.

Stefanos Polyzoides, Professor and Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame, and Marianne Cusato, Professor and Director of Housing and Community Regeneration Initiatives at the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame, delivered a presentation entitled *Dean's Charrette #3: Downtown Kalamazoo Streetscape & Urban Sequences Study Progress Presentation*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

Mayor Anderson stated there was limited time for Commissioner questions and discussion, as the Regular Business Meeting would start in a few minutes. Mayor Anderson noted there would be a longer presentation with the entire downtown charrette team on Wednesday, and he suggested Commissioners attend and ask questions at that time.

An opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2022-00

Presentation: Shared
Prosperity Kalamazoo
(cont'd)

2022-00

Presentation:
Downtown Planning
for Public Space

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment