

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Esteven Juarez
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Qianna Decker

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

Commissioners Excused

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

Public Comments

An opportunity was given for general public comments, but no comments were offered.

2023-17-01

Presentation: Discover Kalamazoo

Jane Ghosh, President and CEO of Discover Kalamazoo delivered a presentation entitled *Discover! Kalamazoo*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

Commissioner Hess thanked Ms. Ghosh for her presentation and for coming to the community to lead Discover Kalamazoo. Commissioner Hess noted the State Theatre reached out to downtown businesses, especially restaurants, with information about big shows.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Ms. Ghosh explained that a member of the Discover Kalamazoo staff worked with social media influencers in a targeted way based on the needs of Kalamazoo, the profile of the influencer, and other factors.

Commissioner Praedel suggested Discover Kalamazoo work to get the Grand Rapids ComiCon event to return to Kalamazoo in 2024, but as “Kalamazoo ComiCon”.

2023-17-02

Presentation: Update on the Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Preparedness and Resource Coordinator Brandi Janes delivered a presentation entitled *Emergency Operations Plan: 2023 Update*. 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, Coordinator Janes provided the following information:

- I stay in constant contact with Mike Corfman, the Director of Kalamazoo County's Office of Emergency Management and Ren Ballew from the Kalamazoo County Response Consortium (Gryphon Place).
- the *Emergency Operations Plan* covers flooding under the “Dam Failure Flooding” and “Severe Weather Event” Annexes.

- the *Emergency Operations Plan* would be emailed to Commissioners for review on April 18th and would be presented to the City Commission for approval on May 1st. After the City Commission approved the plan, the required signatures would be obtained.
- tourism/visitor venues (hotels, conference centers, etc.) were not yet covered in the plan, but there was good communication with Ms. Ghosh and Discover Kalamazoo about large events.

Mayor Anderson remarked on the importance of planning for emergencies.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2023-17-02

Presentation: Update on
the Emergency
Operations Plan (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment