

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Vice Mayor David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Barbara Miller

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Bob Cinabro
Jack Urban*

Also present were Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to excuse the absences of Mayor Hopewell and Commissioners Cinabro and Urban. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Miscellaneous Communications

An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications, but no communications were offered.

Neighborhood Communications

Representatives from the following neighborhood associations and community groups were present and addressed the City Commission:

Eastside Neighborhood Association

Mike Seals, Treasurer
Pat Taylor, Executive Director

Vine Neighborhood Association

Steve Walsh, Executive Director

Eastside Neighborhood Association

The Eastside Neighborhood Association representatives:

- reported the Association ended the fiscal year in "the black" for the first time since 1991 and indicated the Grand Dance was a huge success.
- stated the Association Board of Directors was working on board development and the creation of an Eastside Business Association.
- shared performance results from the Association's annual goals.
- indicated the Association was trying to build its capacity through volunteer recruitment.
- reported over 100 residents per week were being served through the Fresh Food Initiative.

*Commissioner Urban arrived at 6:11 p.m.

- stated it had been very helpful to have Deacon Pat Hall from St. Mary's Church on the Association Board.

- thanked Commissioners Cinabro and Miller for their service on the Commission and their support for the Neighborhood.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. Taylor stated several organizations in the Neighborhood were working with young people.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Anderson, Ms. Taylor stated she had not heard any feedback from residents on the Public Safety Department's door-knocking program, and she had heard a lot of positive feedback on the blight sweeps.

Vice Mayor Anderson remarked on the work of Habitat for Humanity and other collaborative efforts in the Neighborhood. Vice Mayor Anderson expressed hope that the YMCA would partner with New Horizon Village to provide youth programming.

Commissioner Cunningham congratulated the Neighborhood for their recent accomplishments.

The Vine Neighborhood Association representative:

- reported the board elections in May resulted in a completely new board.
- stated the Association had purchased the Central Corners property to control what was happening at the intersection of Vine Street and Westnedge Avenue.
- indicated the Association had received a historic preservation grant to renovate its new facility.
- discussed the Association's collaborative partnerships.
- reported the City had demolished two problem structures.
- thanked Kim Cummings for his organizational ability and work with the Building Blocks program.
- stated Neighborhood business owners had met earlier that day and discussed how to address panhandling.
- commended PSO Schaffer for helping with a personal security issue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. Walsh distributed the Fall 2015 edition of the *Vine Line* newsletter, which provided information about the Public Safety block party on September 24th.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Anderson, Mr. Walsh indicated the following: the results of the traffic calming efforts on Westnedge Avenue were inconclusive; the Association had raised \$43,000 as a match for the historic preservation grant; PSO Schaffer had provided information on the City's panhandling ordinance; and the Vine

Eastside
Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

Vine Neighborhood
Association

Citizen Comments

Neighborhood Enterprise Zone was still active, and he was not aware of an expiration date.

Next, an opportunity was given for citizen comments, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner
Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments by City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on October 19, 2015

Approved by: _____

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor

Dated: October 19, 2015

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