

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Matt Milcarek
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

Commissioner
Excused

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Milcarek, moved to excuse the absence of Mayor Hopewell. 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:

Parkview Hills Neighborhood Association
Joan Dombrowski, President

Western Michigan University Student Association
Thye Fischman, Vice President
Michelle Mayfield, Chief Justice
Logan Brown, Campus Sustainability Chair
Taylor B. Hall, Student Affairs Chair

Parkview Hills
Neighborhood
Association

The Parkview Hills Neighborhood Association representative:

- stated there were no real problems at Parkview Hills.
- thanked Public Safety for their regular patrols in the neighborhood.
- thanked Public Services staff for efficient snow removal after the recent snow storm.
- thanked the Engineering Division for fixing the traffic light at the Oakland/Parkview intersection.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Ms. Dombrowski stated Metro Transit service was not heavily used by neighborhood residents, although there was a group of elderly residents who relied on this service. Ms. Dombrowski stated the neighborhood did not want to lose Metro Transit service.

The Western Michigan University Student Association (WSA) representatives:

- reported on services available to students at the Free Legal Aid clinic.
- stated the WSA had hosted the Student Associations of Michigan conference in the Fall.
- noted Focus Kalamazoo, which had been in existence for just over two years, would be hosting its 100th volunteer event.
- thanked the City for the police presence around campus but stated students still didn't always feel safe, especially when walking around and near campus at night.
- reported the WSA would be working with State Representative Jon Hoadley in the Spring and the Fall to register students to vote.
- stated the WSA was working with the City on the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 process.

Commissioner Sykes thanked WMU students for choosing to come to Kalamazoo and for their investment in the community.

In response to a question from Commission Anderson, Mr. Fischman stated voter turnout for student government elections was around 15%. Mr. Fischman explained each college received one Senate seat for every 500 students in the college, and each registered student organization was eligible to have a Senate seat.

Commissioner Urban urged the WSA to organize events to get student feedback for Imagine Kalamazoo 2025.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney Mr. Fischman stated registering students to vote for the Presidential Primary election on March 8th was tricky because that week was spring break and many students would not be in town.

Vice Mayor Cooney noted U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow would be on campus the next day to talk about student loan reform.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Western Michigan
University Student
Association (WSA)

Citizen Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on March 7, 2016

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: March 7, 2016

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