

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.
Roll Call	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.
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: <u>Edison Neighborhood Association</u> Tomas Minto, Board President Tammy Taylor, Executive Director <u>Vine Neighborhood Association</u> Steve Walsh, Executive Director
Edison Neighborhood Association	The Edison Neighborhood Association representatives: - distributed and reviewed highlights of the March/April 2016 edition of the <i>Edison Voice</i> newsletter. In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Ms. Taylor said she had received many more compliments than complaints regarding the reconfiguration of Portage Street. In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, Ms. Taylor stated the Garden Club would continue in 2016, as would the vegetable and flower program. Ms. Taylor explained the community gardens were not an initiative of the Neighborhood Association.
Vine Neighborhood Association	The Vine Neighborhood Association representative: - reported the sites for the 2016 Building Blocks Program would be on Davis Street, and additional funds from the Gilmore Foundation would be used to improve this area. - announced there would be a "bike ride through Vine" event on April 22nd.

- stated there had been improved communication among the Westnedge corridor businesses since the Association purchased and moved its offices to the Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services building.
- indicated there were ongoing discussions about creating bike lanes that would link the Edison and Vine Neighborhoods.
- reported there would be a Board of Directors retreat in April, which would include team building and planning for the next 2-3 years.

Vine Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Walsh stated the proposed Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) project for the Lovell Street/Stadium Drive intersection would not really impact Vine residents.

In response to a question from Commissioner Milcarek, Mr. Walsh stated the Association had knocked down some walls to create open spaces in its building to make them more marketable, and he reported there were some exciting potential tenants for these spaces.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, Mr. Walsh stated there would be a meeting about Davis Street Park on April 20th, and there might be some collaborative grant writing opportunities for the project.

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

George Magas, City resident, suggested the City give one-time, fixed dollar tax abatements to developers who could begin projects quickly. Mr. Magas also noted Downtown Kalamazoo Inc. was spending all of its money on the Kalamazoo Mall, while the garbage cans on other downtown streets were deteriorating.

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments by City Commissioners.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, City Manager Ritsema stated the two-mill tax levy on properties in the Downtown Development Area was paid in addition to the regular City operating millage.

Mayor Hopewell encouraged Commissioners to submit their appointee performance evaluations as soon as possible, as they were due to the Human Resources Department on Friday, March 18th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on April 4, 2016

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor

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