

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.
Roll Call	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Mayor Don Cooney David Anderson Matt Milcarek Shannon Sykes Jack Urban COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell* Erin Knott Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling. Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to excuse the absences of Mayor Hopewell and Commissioner Knott.
Miscellaneous Communications	An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications. City Manager Ritsema noted the Northside Association for Community Development had requested to be rescheduled to another meeting.
Neighborhood Communications	Representatives from the following neighborhood associations and community groups were present and addressed the City Commission: <u>Eastside Neighborhood Association</u> Mike Seals, Board President Pat Taylor, Executive Director <u>Northside Association for Community Development</u> Bill Lindsey, Neighborhood Resident Mattie Jordan-Woods, Executive Director <u>Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association</u>
Eastside Neighborhood Association	The Eastside Neighborhood Association representatives: - thanked the City for granting an increase in funding for the Association and noted Ms. Taylor's hours had been increased from 20 to 30 hours per week. - expressed concern about the delay in payments to the neighborhood associations in January and February due to the City's budget approval process. - distributed invitations to the Association's annual Grand Dance fundraising event. - reported on recent training for the board of directors. - listed the activities and initiatives the Association was planning for 2016.

- stated the Association was renting out its facility for meetings and events.
- indicated the Association was participating in the MDOT study of the M-43 corridor.
- reported the Association was collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Department to build picnic tables for Rockwell Park and suggested the City close the portion of Trimble Avenue that divided that bisected the park.

Eastside
Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Seals stated he supported the creation of an exit ramp from the business loop into the Northside Neighborhood.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, Mr. Seals stated the basketball court at Rockwell Park was used frequently.

*Mayor Hopewell arrived at 6:17 p.m.

The Northside Association for Community Development representatives:

Northside Association
for Community
Development

- stated residents were worried the City would use eminent domain to take their property for the Rivers Edge development and expressed concern the City was planning to tear up a perfectly good road (Harrison Street) to put in a roundabout, especially when the City was saying there were no funds to fix safety issues on other streets.
- requested City staff meet with residents in the neighborhood to discuss the Rivers Edge development and proposed roundabout.
- reported the Neighborhood was getting undesirable foot traffic in the area of Verberg Park as the result of a car smashing a fence the Parks and Recreation Department had erected.
- thanked the Public Safety Department for its quick response to a garage fire on April 16th on Cobb Street but noted all of the Northside Rocket Football equipment had been destroyed.
- stated the Association was working with City Planner Rebekah Kik and Community Planning and Development Director Laura Lam to get feedback and engagement for *Imagine Kalamazoo 2025*.
- would like to work with City on environmental spill from 1980's and contaminated properties on Mason Street.
- reported six banks had agreed to be part of the Northside Business Center, which would provide training on how to create the business plans and financial projections banks wanted to see with loan applications.

Commissioner Urban thanked the Association for including other neighborhoods in their planning efforts.

Oakland/Winchell
Neighborhood
Association

Commissioner Sykes stated she did not support the use of eminent domain and was willing to talk with residents about this issue. Commissioner Sykes thanked Ms. Jordan-Woods for inviting residents to come and speak directly to the City Commission.

Citizen Comments

Mayor Hopewell noted a representative from the Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood Association had been invited to the meeting but was not present.

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.

Commissioner Urban asked if the City had any recourse to address the problem of people calling residents and telling them the City was going to take their property.

Mayor Hopewell stated residents receiving those calls needed to give the City as much information as possible about the calls so the City could try to determine their source.

Commissioner Anderson clarified that the City was able to use eminent domain to acquire property for public purposes like roads and parks, but not for private development.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on June 20, 2016

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: June 20, 2016

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