

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, September 19, 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

Communications

Also present were Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

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

Neighborhood Communications

Neighborhood communications were received next.

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

Eastside Neighborhood Association

Mike Seals, Board President
Pat Taylor, Executive Director

West Main Hill Neighborhood Association

Louise Wright, President

Eastside Neighborhood Association

The Eastside Neighborhood Association representatives:

- reported the results of the recent board elections.
- asked if a decision had been made about how the funds previously allocated to the Stuart Neighborhood would be reallocated.
- discussed the association's partnerships with the E-NET Coalition and Habitat for Humanity.
- reported the Association had sponsored and/or participated in 11 public events over the past few months.
- described planned improvements to Rockwell Park.
- stated it was a challenge to balance non-revenue generating services with revenue generating activities.
- reported the Association was creating a tool lending program.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Taylor stated there were no concerns from residents about the "tiny house" being built at 1325 Charles St.

Eastside
Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Cooney spoke about the community partners involved at Northeastern Elementary School.

The West Main Hill Neighborhood Association representative:

West Main Hill
Neighborhood
Association

- reported on the Association's activities for the year.
- expressed appreciation to Commissioners for their availability and for the assistance received from the Parks and Recreation Department and Planning Division.
- expressed concerns about ongoing cut-through traffic and parking issues.
- reported Kalamazoo College would be attending the next Traffic Board meeting to request angled parking at bottom of the hills on Lovell and Academy Streets.
- stated the Association was concerned about the City's budget shortfall and indicated they were discussing solutions with the Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood Association, such as combining an income tax with the Foundation for Excellence.
- commented that several homes in the Neighborhood had been on the market for quite a while but had not sold.
- remarked on an abandoned house on Greenlawn Avenue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Wright reported a group had been created to address quality of life issues related to misuse of the basketball court at the Henderson Tot Lot, but the group had not met yet because the issues were so divisive.

Vice Mayor Cooney thanked Ms. Wright for her work on the issue of gun violence.

When an opportunity was given for citizen comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Citizen Comments

Esther Polmanteer, City resident, asked the City to put a sidewalk on Sage Street.

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

Commissioner
Comments

Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain introduced Steve Brown, the City's new Grants Coordinator.

Commissioner Urban suggested Mr. Brown might be a good fit on the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 7, 2016

Approved by: _____

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: November 7, 2016

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