

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 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
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Matt Milcarek

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

Commissioner
Excused

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absence Commissioner Milcarek. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Communications

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:

Oakwood Neighborhood Association

Cheryl Lord, Executive Director

Parkwyn Village Association

Leslie Tung, President

Woods Lake Association

Chris Bovid, President

Oakwood
Neighborhood
Association

The Oakwood Neighborhood Association representative:

- distributed the May 2017 edition of the *Oakwood Times* newsletter.
- reported on the number of contacts and volunteer hours for 2016.
- remarked on the good partnership forming with the Parks and Recreation Department.
- invited Commissioners to upcoming events.
- thanked the Community Planning and Development Department for their code enforcement activities.
- thanked the Public Services Department for providing junk pick-up services for the two Building Blocks sites in the Neighborhood.

- distributed pictures of the water retention pond at the intersection of Kent and Benton and expressed concern about the broken fencing and debris around this area.
- remarked on the need for a bus route through the Neighborhood.
- thanked the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) for neighborhood interactions like foot patrols and presence at events.
- asked if something could be done about the deer population, especially considering the increasing spread of Lyme Disease.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Lord stated she had written letters about the need for a bus stop in the Neighborhood, but she had not attended a Central County Transportation Authority meeting.

Commissioner Anderson noted the Kalamazoo Nature Center and the City of Ann Arbor had culled their deer herds through shooting, and he stated this seemed to be the only solution that was consistently effective when the ECC studied the issue a few years ago.

The Parkwyn Village Association representative:

- noted the Association was celebrating its 70th anniversary and stated the Neighborhood was one of three Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian communities in the United States.
- reported the Association might pursue inclusion of the entire Neighborhood in the National Registry of Historic Places.
- reported Kalamazoo Christian High School students had worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to survey deer tracks in the area around Parkwyn Village, and the study found the deer populations in some areas were 10 times the size that was supportable by the ecosystem.
- indicated most of the deer impacting the Neighborhood were being harbored in the Asylum Lake Preserve.
- expressed strong support for continuing the study of deer populations over the long term.
- suggested a regional study of land use policy and management practices.

The Woods Lake Association representative:

- provided an overview of the Woods Lake area and the Woods Lake Association.
- reported on the general activities of the Association

Oakwood
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

Parkwyn Village
Association

Woods Lake
Association

Woods Lake
Association (cont'd)

- reported the Association was working with the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) to seek more City resources for leaf pick-ups in the fall and street sweeping in the Spring and Summer.
- expressed concern about the high levels of salt in Woods Lake, which was the result of storm water run-off. Mr. Bovid stated oxygenation occurred in the top 10 feet of the lake, which made the deeper areas dead and stagnant.
- requested the City develop a long term policy to address storm water run-off into Woods Lake, and he encouraged the Commission to support the policy being developed by the ECC.
- described streets in the area that needed to be repaired.
- requested more Public Safety resources for neighborhood patrols and for responders during the night and evening hours.
- urged the Commission to give more resources to the Parks and Recreation Department for maintenance, upkeep and signage at Woods Lake Park.

Citizen Comments

An opportunity was given for general citizen comments, but none 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 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on June 5, 2017

Approved by: _____

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: June 5, 2017

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