

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, June 19, 2017 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 Shannon Sykes COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Matt Milcarek Jack Urban Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Commissioners Excused	Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Milcarek and Urban. 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: <u>Homecrest Circle Neighborhood Association</u> Christine Wilkins Peter Wilkins <u>Stuart Area Restoration Association</u> Max Tibbitts, Board Chair Valarie Bader, Vice Chair Dana Underwood, Secretary
Homecrest Circle Neighborhood Association	The Homecrest Circle Neighborhood Association representatives: - reported the neighborhood was growing, and after years of being dormant the Association was going to reconstitute itself with some meetings and events over the summer.
Stuart Area Restoration Association	The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives: - reported the Association would be changing from a political organization to a social organization with an emphasis on incorporating new residents into the life of the City and the Association. - discussed the impact of short-term lodging (Air BnB) on the neighborhood, described how the Association had dealt with it, and stated regulation was needed to make this industry an economic benefit for the community rather than a nuisance.

- stated the Association had drafted a position paper and policy document on short term rental properties and indicated these documents were given to City staff first in August of 2016 and then again in November of 2016 and May of 2017. Ms. Underwood expressed frustration that the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals had recently considered cases dealing with short term rental properties and had made decisions that headed in the opposite direction from the Association's proposals and recommendations. Ms. Underwood noted the state had moved to start collecting sales taxes on revenue from short term rental properties, and the Association had reached out to Kalamazoo County regarding collection of the countywide accommodation tax. Ms. Underwood asked that the issue of regulating short term rental properties be prioritized above the creation of a medical marihuana facility ordinance.
- reported the Summer Youth Employment Program was going well.
- indicated the Association had sold several properties in the past few months.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, City Attorney Robinson stated he had not seen the documents Ms. Underwood had submitted to City staff. City Attorney Robinson reported the City had been working through its lobbyists and the Michigan Municipal League to fight proposed state laws that would prohibit local units of government from regulating short term rental properties.

Ms. Underwood stated it was frustrating that City staff could not answer ZBA members' questions about short term rental properties when the documents the Association had provided addressed many of the issues that were raised.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sykes, Ms. Underwood stated she had sent the proposed ordinance and policy to many people in the City organization, including department directors and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Sykes suggested the City systematize a process for citizens to submit ideas for ordinances and policies.

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

Asha Kashad, City resident, spoke about the problem of litter in the City and the need for trash cans in bus stops.

Jody Dozeman, city resident, spoke about putting privacy fences around cemeteries and expressed support for paying people who did not have homes or jobs to clean up litter.

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

Stuart Area
Restoration
Association
(cont'd)

Citizen Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on July 3, 2017

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: July 3, 2017

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