

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 West South Street.
Roll Call	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Mayor Erin Knott David Anderson Don Cooney Eric Cunningham Jack Urban COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell Shannon Sykes Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Commissioners Excused	Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absence of Mayor Hopewell. 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>Vine Neighborhood Association</u> Emily Greenman-Wright, Neighborhood Resident <u>Western Student Association</u> Chiante' N. Lymon, President Logan Brown, Vice President
Vine Neighborhood Association	The Vine Neighborhood Association representative: - reported the Association was working with Kalamazoo Public Schools to make the parking lot between El Sol Elementary School and Chenery Auditorium a community asset. Ms. Greenman Wright explained this parking did not meeting the needs of either Chenery or El Sol, and the timing of this discussion was good due to the City's Vine Street reconstruction project. Ms. Greenman Wright reported there were plans to rebuild the retaining wall along Vine Street, and this project might create an opportunity for making a curb cut. Ms. Greenman Wright expressed gratitude for the Association's good relationships with other non-profit organizations, KPS, and the City. Commissioner Urban suggested the Association work with KPS on this request/project, and he recommended the Association have a well-organized, focused proposal before they presented it to the schools.

The Western Student Association (WSA) representatives:

- reported WSA had picked up trash along West Michigan Avenue as a community improvement project.
- requested safer bike lanes, especially in the Stadium Drive/Howard Street area.
- stated they were considering a community clean-up day activity that would be a collaboration of Registered Student Organizations.
- noted WSA was planning Earth Day activities and asked if there were opportunities to participate in the City's Earth Day activities.

Commissioner Urban suggested the WSA meet with the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding bike lanes on Stadium Drive, as MDOT was in the process of designing a large project involving Stadium Drive and Howard Street.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. Brown stated his experience in Kalamazoo had been good. Ms. Lymon stated she has enjoyed downtown, but businesses there did not do a good job of promoting themselves to students. Both Mr. Brown and Ms. Lymon reported they felt safe in Kalamazoo.

Commissioner Cooney described how Kalamazoo College students had adopted Woodward Elementary School, and he suggested WSA work through Kalamazoo Communities in Schools to do something similar.

Commissioner Urban remarked on the ways volunteer opportunities could help students with career pathways.

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

Commissioner Urban requested that Commissioners provide advance notice to their colleagues when they were going to be absent from a meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on April 16, 2018

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: April 16, 2018

Western Student
Association

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment