

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Shannon Sykes
Vice Mayor Erin Knott

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.

Commissioners
Excused

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to excuse the absences of Vice Mayor Knott and Commissioner Sykes. 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:

Edison Neighborhood Association

Gerry Hoffmann, Board President
Tammy Taylor, Executive Director

Parker Duke Neighborhood Association

Bill Hughes, President

Edison
Neighborhood
Association

The Edison Neighborhood Association representatives:

- commented on positive events happening in the neighborhood including the 50th Anniversary of the Edison Neighborhood Association.
- expressed concern regarding the proposed rezoning of 333 E. Alcott Street from Zone M-1 to Zone RM-24 to allow the construction of a housing facility for recovering addicts. The representatives stated neighborhood residents were concerned about security and the impact of the proposed facility on surrounding property values.
- reported on partnerships with the City's Summer Youth Employment Program and Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program.
- reported on the large attendance and success of the National Night Out event on August 7th.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Hoffmann stated the neighborhood would be represented at the special Planning Commission meeting on August 21st.

Edison
Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

Commissioner Cooney stated the proposed housing facility at 333 E. Alcott would be the first type of facility in the country where residents would be identified and referred from the Kalamazoo County Drug Court. Commissioner Cooney stated the project was a housing facility and not a rehab facility. Commissioner Cooney agreed with residents' concerns regarding security and stated the building would need security guards.

The Parker Duke Neighborhood Association representatives:

Parker Duke
Neighborhood
Association

- reported the fire hydrant at 3422 Duke Street needed repair.
- expressed concern regarding the number of Public Safety calls for service at the duplexes near the corner of Parker Ave and Duke Street.
- expressed concerns regarding the lack of access to a public playground for children in the neighborhood. Mr. Hughes stated the City's Master Plan specified the neighborhood should have access to public space, but it did not exist in the neighborhood. Mr. Hughes thanked Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church for allowing neighborhood residents to use their playground.

In response to questions from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. Hughes stated the Southern Heights CRC was planning to expand their playground next year to include a swing set, but the church playground was really built for young children, leaving older children with no access to a public park.

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

Citizen Comments

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the classification of "over the counter" drugs versus prescription drugs and illegal drugs.

Zach Lassiter, City resident, expressed support for the proposed housing facility at 333 E. Alcott Street.

Benjamin Stanley, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 33 of the Kalamazoo City Code (Streets and Other Public Grounds) on the Regular Agenda of the City Commission business meeting.

Jodi Dozeman, City resident, proposed sanitation issue solutions and communication strategies for the City.

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

Commissioner
Comments

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

For City Commission approval on December 17, 2018

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: December 17, 2018