

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at in Davis Street Park, located at 901 Davis Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Vice Mayor Erin Knott
Shannon Sykes

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

Commissioners
Excused

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, 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:

Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood Association

Peter Kushner, President

Vine Neighborhood Association

Steve Walsh, Executive Director

Oakland/Winchell
Neighborhood
Association

The Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood Association representative:

- provided an update on the development of the Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood Plan and the planning process.
- expressed appreciation for the availability of City staff during non-work hours.
- expressed frustration about the interaction with City staff over the development of the neighborhood plan.
- requested that the City provide more constructive feedback, proactive/out-of-the-box ideas, and win/win solutions to neighborhood issues during the neighborhood plan process.

Commissioner Cooney thanked Mr. Kushner raising issues about the neighborhood planning process and stated the City Manager would address them with staff.

Mr. Kushner reported City staff would be at the next Association meeting, and he expressed hope that residents would get answers to some basic questions.

Oakland/Winchell
Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

Commissioner Cunningham encouraged Mr. Kushner and Oakland/Winchell residents to continue working on their neighborhood plan and to continue the dialogue with the City.

Commissioner Urban expressed concern that plans for roadwork at Stadium Drive and Howard Street would move forward without input from the Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood. Commissioner Urban asked Mr. Kushner to keep him informed of conversations the Association has with Western Michigan University and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Mr. Kushner indicated the Association was concerned about the future land use of the Stadium/Howard intersection and did not want any commercial development there. Mr. Kushner commented on the need for continued dialogue on this issue.

City Manager Ritsema stated this was the first time he was hearing about issues with the neighborhood plan process, and they concerned him. City Manager Ritsema stated would be looking into this.

Mayor Hopewell remarked on the need to follow the IK2025 engagement process with a neighborhood plan process that allowed imagination and discussion to take place.

The Vine Neighborhood representative:

Vine Neighborhood

- thanked everyone who was involved with the redevelopment of Davis Street Park and for the great dialogue that took place to create the plan for the park. Mr. Walsh stated it was great to see the park being used.
- thanked Katie and Amanda with the Community Planning and Economic Development Department for their help developing the Vine Neighborhood Plan.
- remarked on a recent Art Hop event.
- reported there were still a number of unregistered rental houses and predatory landlords in the Neighborhood.
- stated the Association was working to improve safety and thanked Officer Shank and Sgt. Juday for building relationships in the Vine Neighborhood.

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

Citizen Comments

Bonnie, City resident, expressed concern for homeless people, asked about the City's intentions for the encampment at Bronson

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Park, and stated she would share a letter she had written to Commissioner Sykes with the rest of the City Commission.

Martha Gonzales, City resident, reported she was circulating a petition asking City to limit the number of halfway houses in the Vine Neighborhood. Ms. Gonzales stated homeless people should not be concentrated in the City of Kalamazoo.

Commissioner
Comments

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on October 15, 2018

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: October 15, 2018