

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 15, 2019 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 Erin Knott David Anderson Don Cooney Shannon Sykes Jack Urban COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Eric Cunningham Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Commissioners Excused	Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cunningham. 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>Eastside Neighborhood Association</u> April Ouweleen, Vice President Pat Taylor, Executive Director
Eastside Neighborhood Association	The Eastside Neighborhood Association representatives: - described recent neighborhood activities and initiatives. - reported an increase in the number of people attending regular neighborhood association meetings. - expressed a desire to see East Main Street redeveloped to have more family-friendly businesses and owner-occupied housing. - requested assistance from the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department and Small Business Development Center for the creation of a strategy and funding for incentives to attract businesses to the area on East Main Street between Phelps and Trimble. - reported on the following activities and initiatives: creation of a mural based on residents' stories about living on the Eastside; cleaning up vacant lots and creating pocket parks; the Building Blocks Program on Edwin Street; collaborating with Kalamazoo Public Schools to provide meals for kids during the summer; Public Media Network training students to use cameras for the Tell Your Story project; increasing youth employment; and the National Night Out event in August.

- expressed concern about speeding traffic on Edwin Street
- expressed concern that the Consolidated Dispatch Center was prioritizing emergency calls based on assumptions about the areas where incidents took place; and that people were finding out about 911 calls before Public Safety Officers were dispatched.
- stated they were looking forward to working with City's capacity building consultant to hone the Association's mission and vision.

Mayor Hopewell questioned how people were finding out about 911 calls, as the radio communication between dispatchers and police officers was encrypted.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. Taylor stated young people knew about the Summer Youth Employment Program, but she did not know how many young people from Eastside had applied because the application was an online process.

Commissioner Urban expressed support for the work of the capacity building consultant.

City Manager Ritsema stated Community Planning and Economic Development Director Rebekah Kik would be contacting the neighborhood representatives to discuss connections between the Association's activities and Imagine Kalamazoo.

An opportunity was given for public comments, but no comments were offered.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on May 6, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: May 6, 2019

Eastside Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

Public Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment