

	A regular work session of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 and alignment around the City's approach to aspirational projects for 2017, 2018, and beyond.
Roll Call	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell Vice Mayor Don Cooney David Anderson Erin Knott Matt Milcarek Shannon Sykes Jack Urban (via phone) COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None
	Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Communications	An opportunity was offered for general communications, but none were offered.
Discussion Items	Discussion items were considered next.
Discussion of Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Progress and Key Themes	City Manager Ritsema reviewed the agenda for the meeting and provided introductory remarks for a PowerPoint presentation entitled <i>City Commission Work Session: April 10, 2017</i>. A copy of this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting. Community Planning and Development Director Rebekah Kik reviewed the Imagine Kalamazoo (IK) 2025 process, discussed some of the community engagement results, provided an update on next steps in the process, and explained the relationship between the master plan and other plans and strategies that would fall out from them. In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Kik explained the input received during IK2025 would be used to inform the other plans and strategies, which would allow the outreach for those plans to be more targeted and aimed at filling gaps.
Update re: Creation of FFE Legal Framework	City Attorney Robinson provided an update on the creation of the legal framework for the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) and reported he had drafted bylaws and articles of incorporation, which were being reviewed by the attorney for the donors. City Attorney Robinson also reported the City had reserved the name "Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence" with the state and had reserved many website domain names. City Attorney Robinson indicated the parties would be able to meet the August deadline for creation of the Foundation.
Update re: Purchasing Capacity for FFE	Management Services Director Tom Skrobola reviewed strategies being implemented to streamline the procurement process and provide more capacity for the Purchasing Division.

Mayor Hopewell expressed hope that staff would reach out to sectors and stakeholders that did not typically have opportunities to provide feedback.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Skrobola indicated staff would be looking at the City's purchasing policies, which might result in proposed changes, especially regarding the local preference policy.

Assistant City Manager Laura Lam discussed the 2017 FFE project/program selection process and what this process would look like moving from 2017 to 2018, 2019, and 2020. Assistant City Manager Lam reviewed the proposed FFE aspirational projects for 2017.

Neighborhood Business and Special Projects Coordinator Dwayne Powell described the impact of an Economic Opportunities Program.

Intern Kevin Ford described the opportunity for community wealth building through children's savings accounts.

Grants Specialist and FFE Coordinator Steve Brown reviewed the overall FFE timeline for 2017-2019.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, Assistant City Manager Lam stated she hoped the Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) consultant would be able to start working for the City by the end of the month.

Director Skrobola reviewed the Open Data website for Denton, TX and used this portal as an example of the tools available for collecting and reporting on municipal performance data.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Skrobola indicated the City would conduct an inventory of all its data and would choose the "best of the best" data to incorporate into the City's budget. Director Skrobola stated scorecards would be created for 2018 and beyond.

City Manager Ritsema reported the City would be partnering with The Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University to develop program measurements.

Commissioner Urban stated he would like to see Kalamazoo's website include goals and a narrative element in order to provide context for the data.

City Manager Ritsema offered closing remarks and asked if there was any additional input from Commissioners.

Commissioner Anderson stated the process to bring together IK2025, FFE, and Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) had been very confusing, and it was a challenge to make the mental transition from budget cuts and survival to thinking about thriving. Commissioner Anderson expressed appreciation for the work that had been done.

Update re: Purchasing Capacity for FFE (cont'd)

FFE Approach and Aspirational Projects

Commissioner Response and Discussion

Commissioner
Response and
Discussion (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, City Manager Ritsema stated FFE allocations would come to the City Commission in the form of budget amendments.

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed a desire to move forward on the strategic plan for SPK. Vice Mayor Cooney stated the needs in the community were urgent, but the City needed a plan before it started spending money.

Mayor Hopewell indicated the work session had been very helpful, and he expressed appreciation that the City was looking to enhance current programs before developing new ones.

City Manager Ritsema asked for consensus on the information presented in the following slides: *Project Approach/Timeline* (one slide), *2017 Aspirational Projects* (five slides), and *Timeline* (five slides).

Commissioner Sykes questioned whether SPK was the same as “ending generational poverty” and observed that the current track of SPK would not end poverty.

Vice Mayor Cooney stated SPK included the FFE aspirational goal of ending generational poverty, and he explained the SPK strategic plan should create a road map for ending poverty.

In response to a question from Commissioner Milcarek, Assistant City Manager Lam clarified that “ready to do” projects were projects the City could start immediately, and “planning to do” projects were projects that required more input and preparation.

Commissioner Knott stated it was difficult for her to support the proposed neighborhood projects because they did not address infrastructure and the built environment.

Vice Mayor Cooney indicated he was not ready to spend money on Bronson Park improvements, two-way streets, or trailways.

Commissioner Urban offered remarks on the need for Kalamazoo to compete with other cities in the areas of livability, mobility, and an educated workforce.

Commissioner Milcarek requested more information on project coordination, which would provide context for decision making, and asked that the endowment campaign be placed on the timeline as a separate activity. Commissioner Milcarek noted some of the projects were aspirations of the community that needed to be honored.

Commissioner Urban expressed agreement with Commissioner Milcarek regarding the endowment campaign and requested detailed information on how the City would help with fundraising efforts.

Commissioner Sykes requested the SPK strategic plan be included on the timeline. Commissioner Sykes recommended that “ending poverty” come first, ahead of the other aspirational projects, as improving the City first would increase property values and drive out the poor.

Commissioner Sykes offered that the SPK strategic plan would help the City keep the poor in mind as it worked on other projects. Commissioner Sykes observed that the items on the "2017 Aspirational Projects" list appeared to be "spent money," and she asked how much money remained for poverty elimination.

Commissioner
Response and
Discussion (cont'd)

Commissioner Milcarek suggested the City's affordable housing strategy include an anti-displacement strategy.

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

Citizen Comments

Zach Lassiter, City resident, expressed support for the City's open data efforts and urged the City to make its open data website accessible to all residents. Mr. Lassiter suggested the City contact other government entities who were currently making their data available.

Larry Schlack, City resident, stated he was proud of the City Commission, and he recommended that community leaders start by asking what the City would look like without poverty.

The following people expressed support for a skate plaza in the proposed Davis Creek Park improvements and requested that FFE dollars be used for the project:

Judd Easton, City resident
Sarah Drumm, City resident
Mike Smith, City resident
Matt Kobrek, City resident
Rebecca Woodaman, City resident

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments and concerns from City Commissioners.

Commissioner
Comments

At the request of Mayor Hopewell, Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher reviewed the plans for improving Davis Street Park. Director Fletcher explained the planning process started in 2012, but the money allocated at that time did not line up with the wants and needs of the community in 2017. Director Fletcher reported the FY2017 budget included \$210,000 for Davis Creek Park, but that amount would not fund a skate park.

Mayor Hopewell encouraged people to stay engaged and passionate but noted there were 70,000 residents in the City and limited resources.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on June 5, 2017

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: June 5, 2017

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