

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Erin Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Eric Cunningham*
Shannon Sykes

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

Commissioners
Excused

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to excuse the absences of Mayor Hopewell and Commissioners Cunningham and 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:

Oakwood Neighborhood Association

Alfonso Espinosa, Vice President
Cheryl Lord, Executive Director

Parkwyn Village Association

Leslie Tung, President

Woods Lake Association

Christopher Bovid, President

Oakwood Neighborhood
Association
2019-0167

The Oakwood Neighborhood Association representatives:

- distributed and reviewed the May 2019 edition of the *Oakwood Times* newsletter.
- described efforts to move forward elements of the Oakwood Neighborhood Plan.
- discussed requests from businesses such as extending sidewalks, installing crosswalks, and installing decorative lighting.
- reported statistics for contact and volunteer hours.
- thanked Public Services for help with the Building Blocks program and the Parks and Recreation Department for the after-school program.

- expressed concern about retention ponds on City property in the neighborhood and the height of the grass in these areas.
- expressed concerns about the condition of the streets in the neighborhood and indicated proper drainage of stormwater was needed.
- asked that City mow 2528 Hazel Avenue, which backed up to the Springmont Tot Lot.
- expressed concern about the amount of trash and garbage on the sides of the roads in all City neighborhoods.
- requested a bus stop in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Cooney asked City Manager Ritsema to look into the concerns of the neighborhood.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. Lord stated Springmont and Madison would be good locations for bus stops.

Commissioner Urban noted the Central County Transportation Authority had indicated the issue of bus stop placement was settled.

The Parkwyn Village Association representative:

- reported the updated deed covenants had been approved and recorded with the Register of Deeds.
- expressed concern with the spread of Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species and reported there were large patches immediately outside the neighborhood. Mr. Tung stated the Association had been working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, but that partnership fell through.
- stated deer overpopulation was still an issue.
- expressed concerns about security after recent incidents of mail theft in the neighborhood.
- reported the Association's early documents were now at the Western Michigan University Archives.
- announced a walking tour of the neighborhood would take place on July 25th.

The Woods Lake Association representative:

- distributed the following documents: *Woods Lake Association 2019 Membership/Dues Payment Request*; *Weekly Bathing Beach Monitoring Results for Woods Lake at Woods Lake City Park*, dated August 28, 2018; an MLive article entitled *Advisory for Woods Lake after High Levels of E.coli Found*, dated July 24, 2018; and an MLive article entitled *Advisory Lifted for Swimmers at Woods Lake after E.coli Found*.

Oakwood Neighborhood Association (cont'd)

Parkwyn Village Association

Woods Lake Association

2019-0168

Woods Lake Association
(cont'd)

- stated the main activity of Association was water quality testing and chemical treatments for algae blooms and invasive species.
- reported the current water clarity was 18 feet, which was the best he had ever seen.
- commended Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher and Deputy Director Patrick McVerry for communicating about issues with Woods Lake Park. Mr. Bovid stated the City was doing a good job of mowing the park and dealing with trash.
- indicated the Association had serious concerns about the way the Kalamazoo County Health Department was doing water tests. Mr. Bovid stated the County issued press release quickly without validating test results, and he questioned whether testing protocols were being followed.
- noted the Association would be closely watching the redevelopment of the Consumers Credit Union property at Oakland Drive and Parkview Avenue.
- stated Association members were generally supportive of the Natural Features Protection Overlay, although there were concerns about potential impacts to private property owners.
- expressed hope that the Rich gas station on Oakland Drive would go away.
- expressed concern about the deer population.
- expressed concern about delays and disconnects with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety now that emergency and dispatch calls went through the Consolidated Dispatch Center.
- reported the Association had been working with the Environmental Concerns Committee on a resolution to the City Commission recommending street sweeping early and late in the summer season in order to reduce the amount of salt and detritus that flowed into the lake through storm sewers.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Bovid suggested culling as a solution to the deer population and noted this approach had been successful in Ann Arbor and Royal Oak.

*Commissioner Cunningham arrived at 6:48.

Public Comments

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

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, commented on trees that were blocking a plaque about the Kalamazoo River and suggested the City create special parking spaces for motorcycles downtown.

Commissioner
Comments

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on September 3, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: September 3, 2019