

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6:01 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
Eric Cunningham
Patrese Griffin
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

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 Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association

Peter Kushner, President

West Main Hill Neighborhood Association

Rachel Chadderdon Bair

Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood

The Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association representative:

- thanked the Community Planning and Economic Development staff for developing the Natural Features Protection Ordinance and engaging the community on this issue.
- remarked on the progress of the Oakland/Winchell 2020 Plan and stated the neighborhood wanted an opportunity to see and review the draft plan once it was developed. Mr. Kushner stated some of the committees working on the plan wanted better feedback and two-way communication with staff regarding the possibility of ideas being implemented.
- stated the Association was trying to get timelines for traffic studies that were related to traffic issues in the neighborhood, such as Winchell Avenue/Rambling Road intersection.
- reported Consumers Energy was doing upgrades in the neighborhood and getting easements from property owners. Mr. Kushner stated the Association wanted Consumers to make properties whole, but working with them was challenging.
- indicated the Association was working on Safe Routes to School Grant for improvements to make walking routes in the neighborhood safer.

- stated the Association was working with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) and residents to implement the app Neighbors by Ring.

Oakland Drive/Winchell
Neighborhood (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Mr. Kushner stated he wanted two-way communication with the City regarding the draft plan, and specifically a response from the City as to why elements were, or were not, included in the plan.

The West Main Hill Neighborhood Association representative:

West Main Hill
Neighborhood

- reported the Association would be engaging in the IK 2025 neighborhood plan process. Ms. Chadderdon Bair thanked Neighborhood Activator Katie Riley for her help.
- observed the Association seemed to be more active when there was a controversy.
- expressed concern about temporary speed bumps on Academy Street and noted Academy Street was not the area where dangerous speeding occurred.
- thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the new tot lot in the neighborhood.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Chadderdon Bair stated everyone was happy with the new STOP sign at Lovell and Monroe Streets, but some did not like the flashing lights because they took away from the historic character of neighborhood.

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

Public Comments

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, expressed concern about the lack trash containers in some bus stops.

Ben Stanley, City resident, stated he was asked to leave the Oshtemo library grounds while gathering petition signatures because it was private property, but the Library Board indicated the library was public property. Mr. Stanley asked whether the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety should be enforcing the library's rules.

Jeff Messer, City resident, noted the Kalamazoo County Sheriff enforced laws at the Oshtemo library, and he reported Jim Ferner was harassed by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety for getting signatures in Bronson Park during the Maranda Party in the Park in 2018.

Next an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments by City Commissioners.

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Cooney asked the City Attorney for clarification on where people were allowed to solicit petition signatures.

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Mayor Hopewell asked the City Attorney for clarification on public property vs. non-public property.

Commissioner Urban asked for an explanation of the difference between public streets and public buildings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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

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