

	A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, July 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 David Anderson Don Cooney Eric Cunningham Shannon Sykes Jack Urban COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Mayor Erin Knott Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.
Commissioners Excused	Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absence of Vice Mayor Knott. 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>Arcadia Neighborhood Association</u> Michael Coyle <u>Community Youth</u> Cassidy Jonaitis Mercedes Morales-Mills BrEndan Tribu <u>Northside Association for Community Development</u> Mildred Smith, President Stephanie Bell, Resident Mattie Jordan-Woods, Executive Director
Arcadia Neighborhood Association 2019-0244	The Arcadia Neighborhood Association representative: - distributed and reviewed the Imagine Arcadia Neighborhood Plan – 2018 Arcadia Neighborhood Survey. - stated the Association had backed out of the Neighborhood Plan process as conversations with City staff had become increasingly more difficult. - distributed and reviewed a portion of the City’s Future Land Use Map entitled <i>The “Orange Strip”</i> and expressed concern that the projected rezoning of this area to Zone R2 would change the character of neighborhood.

- noted the retaining walls on W. Michigan Avenue needed repairs. Mr. Coyle stated the City had committed to making and paying for the repairs in the Spring of 2018, but the repairs had not been started yet.
- indicated the neighborhood did not have a park and expressed frustration that whenever the Association has had an opportunity to buy property for a park the properties have sold before the Association could make the purchase.
- expressed concern about the lack of City services in the neighborhood such as street and pothole repairs, retaining wall maintenance, sidewalks that did not connect, and the absence of a park.
- stated the Association would like to talk with someone at the City who had the authority to make decisions, as it seemed there was a lot of communication about various issues but no action.

Arcadia Neighborhood
Association (cont'd)

Commissioner Urban noted rezoning actions needed to go to the Planning Commission where there would be a public hearing.

In response to Commissioner Urban, Mr. Coyle stated he understood there were opportunities for public input, but it seemed like the decisions had been made by the time those opportunities arrived.

Commissioner Cooney requested that a meeting take place between neighborhood representatives and City staff to discuss these issues.

Mayor Hopewell remarked that every neighborhood talked about need for road repairs, and he explained that the City had \$70 million of needed repairs that had to be prioritized.

Commissioner Urban suggested the City's practice of coordinating road work with utility repairs was having an impact.

Mr. Coyle asked if he could receive a 3- or 5-year schedule of road repairs.

Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Aerts introduced Counselors in Training (CIT's) and provided an overview of the City's camping programs.

The Community Youth representatives:

- spoke about their roles and jobs at the different camp sites.
- talked about their history with the City's camping programs and offered remarks on what it was like to be a CIT after being a camper.
- described what they liked the most about being CIT's.

Community Youth

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Mr. Aerts indicated 6-8 of the City's 40+ counselors had been CIT's.

In response to questions from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. Aerts stated there were around 40 kids at the larger camping sites, but the numbers fluctuated from week-to-week. Mr. Aerts stated campers read for 20 minutes each day and participated in the Kalamazoo Public Library Summer Reading Challenge.

Community Youth

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Tribu stated he chose to be a CIT because he liked being around the campers, and it felt like he was in a teaching role.

Northside Association for
Community Development

The Northside Association for Community Development (NACD) representatives:

- reported the Association updated its strategic plan in 2018 with a focus on getting individual benefits, programs with young people, and sustaining income for NACD.
- indicated the Association was partnering with Michigan Rehabilitation Services and other organizations to provide Certified Nursing Assistant training.
- reported the Association was receiving a \$75,000 grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for resident staffers to implement the strategic plan.
- stated the Association was working with Kalamazoo Promise to create a technology center.
- thanked City staff for their hard work.
- described how removing the “no parking, stopping, standing” signs in the Ada Street corridor had impacted the neighborhood and requested the placement of temporary speed bumps, or at least a “children playing sign,” as children were getting hit.
- reported block parties of 200-500 people were happening starting late at night and continuing into the mornings, with two of the worst events happening on June 29 and July 13. Ms. Bell indicated parties were telling residents they could not tell them to leave because there was no such thing as loitering.
- thanked the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) for their work on this issue, but residents wanted a permanent solution.
- expressed concern that the splash pad on Florence Street was in disrepair, was frequently locked (including on July 4th) and lacked seating.
- expressed concern about speeding vehicles, which were worse on double blocks, and people doing “donuts” in the streets.
- indicated these problems were largely the results of non-residents coming into the neighborhood from outside the City.
- stated they were trying to set up meeting with KDPS to talk about specific problems and solutions.
- provided dates of upcoming events.

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

Mark Anderson, City resident, spoke about problems with the X-Train and block parties on Woodward Avenue. Mr. Anderson stated a police presence was good, but that presence had lead to other effects, like his assault by police on May 10th and being profiled in a traffic stop. Mr. Anderson stated the officers involved in the traffic stop did not follow the department's Consent to Search Policy and failed to record his race on the tickets he was issued. Mr. Anderson asked to talk with someone about a solution.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 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

Public Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment