

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 21, 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 Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Patrese Griffin
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

Also present were Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.

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:

Northside Association for Community Development

Patricia Plair, Resident
Mattie Jordan-Woods, Executive Director

West Main Hill Neighborhood Association

Rachel Chadderdon Bair, President

West Main Hill Neighborhood Association

The West Main Hill Neighborhood Association representative:

- reported the association was making progress on their neighborhood plan. The plan included ideas for a play street, a study of the current on-street parking, and nonuse of toxic pesticides on lawns.
- Ms. Bair reported the association's next meeting would take place on November 24th, and the neighborhood plan subcommittees would meet following that meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Bair stated the idea of a play street was proposed by her husband, and the neighborhood was also considering the idea of superblocks. Ms. Bair indicated the proposed play street was a street already closed to traffic between Woodside and Valley Street, which was located next to a park.

Northside Association for Community Development

The Northside Association for Community Development representatives:

- reported there were continued issues with the x-train and speeding vehicles on Cobb Avenue. Ms. Plair requested enforcement action at the first reports of an x-train before it became a large crowd. Ms. Plair suggested

the installation of either a 4-way stop at the intersection of Cobb Avenue and Prouty Street or speed bumps on Cobb Avenue.

- criticized the recent Foundation for Excellence newsletter for changing the words “resident-owned businesses” to “locally-owned businesses” when describing the Northside Neighborhood Plan.
- expressed concerns regarding the planning process for LaCrone Park improvements and that the plan did not include a splashpad.
- invited the public to several upcoming events in the Neighborhood.
- provided an update on the affordable housing initiatives taking place in the neighborhood and the partnerships that had developed to fund new affordable housing.

Commissioner Anderson commented on the recent vandalism to a school in the Northside Neighborhood and efforts to work with school officials to close off the parking lot during non-school hours.

In response to questions from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Jordan-Woods stated the former North Christian School was owned by Stone Church, and it was available for sale but would need to be torn down due to the dilapidated condition of the building. Ms. Jordan-Woods stated this property should be zoned single family, as that would be uniform with the surrounding area.

Commissioner Urban stated enforcement of the x-train presented difficult challenges to law enforcement due to the mobility of the group. Commissioner Urban asked residents to provide guidance to law enforcement on where the group might move next.

Ms. Jordan-Woods stated it was difficult for x-train witnesses to capture license plate numbers or vehicle information due to their speed.

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

Jody Dozeman, City resident, suggested that professors at Kalamazoo Valley Community College post photographs of themselves outside their classroom doors.

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

Mayor Hopewell suggested Ms. Dozeman reach out to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Board of Trustees with her idea and directed staff to help Ms. Dozeman find contact information for the board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Northside Association
for Community
Development (cont'd)

Citizen Comments

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 11, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: November 11, 2019

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