



**Natural Features
Protection Review
Board
Minutes
December 16th, 2025
Held at City Hall
Commission Chambers 4:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order: Director Martin called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

Members absent: Rowe, Hollander, Fredrickson

1. Excuse Absent Board Members: The motion to excuse absent board members was made by Director Bassett and supported by Director Stemple, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Director Murgia supported by Director Bassett, motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from November 25th, 2025, NFP Review Board Meeting made by Director Stemple, supported by Director Bassett, motion passed unanimously with correction of absences.

D. General Citizen Comments

No incoming calls

Dantae Hudson representing the United Pursuit Basketball Club, expresses support for a youth sports facility



E. Board Comments

No comments

F. New Business

1. 1617 N Drake Rd, Westgate Sports Complex (files submitted to board members by applicants to support project). Applicants would like to split the 62-acre parcel into a 20-acre lot and develop the site into a sports facility. Project is being led by Discover Kalamazoo in partnership with multiple other agencies. Applicant is looking to preserve 13.5% of the existing woodlands, no significant water resources attached to the site or wetlands that have been delineated.

Jane Gosh the president and CEO of Discover Kalamazoo believes there is a lot of local demand and believes that the local youth will benefit from the project. Did a feasibility study that validated the project Monday-Thursday local use will be prioritized for the facility and that will increase participation opportunities. This project could also provide an opportunity to create jobs; this would also give opportunities to other businesses like hotels and restaurants with all the people coming in from different cities for tournaments.

Kurt Ardema works for AVB construction, provided images of the site, future site plans and an aerial view.

Brian Persky, director of business development at Discover Kalamazoo, talked about parking, study suggested 950 parking spaces, after a few field visits the number of parking spaces was reduced to a range of 650 parking spaces.

Bassett is still a bit undecided and not ready to put a motion on the table, considering a motion to table the issue.

Motion to recommend to the zoning board of appeals to grant a variance from the protected slopes and slope setbacks NFP standards within the project limits and to grant a variance from the Woodland Standard to preserve 13.5% of the existing woodland when 25% is the minimum required by right conditioned upon as much of the remaining green space or undeveloped area as possible to be replanted using native species with a preference for dense replanting of native tree species was made by Director Bassett and Seconded by Director Martin.

2. **2026 NFP regular meeting schedule**

No public comments, no incoming calls. Schedule is similar to last years schedule, December and May 2026 meetings may have a different date due to holidays.

Martin made a motion to approve 2026 NFP regular meeting schedule. This was

seconded by Murgia.

Question?

Public Comments:

Unfinished Business

Staff Reports and Update

No staff report and updates

Communications and Announcements:

None

Adjourn Meeting

Director Martin adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm