

Roll Call

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Erin Knott

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

Commissioner
Excused

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner 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:

Oakwood Neighborhood Association

Marcia Wallace, Board President
Cheryl Lord, Executive Director

Oakwood
Neighborhood
Association
2019-0358

The Oakwood Neighborhood Association representatives:

- distributed the October/November 2019 edition of the *Oakwood Times* newsletter and a pamphlet entitled *Oakwood Neighborhood Association: Neighbors Helping Neighbors Since 1947*.
- reported on the number of neighborhood contacts and volunteer hours and described recent events and activities in the neighborhood.
- commented on the afterschool program, the senior program, and the food pantry partnership with D&W grocery store.
- announced a fundraising campaign would be starting soon for renovations to the Community Center.
- stated the neighborhood wanted more greenspaces and another park.
- expressed concern about the deer population.
- remarked that Frank Wolf of the Woods Lake Association had sent a letter regarding the cleanup of a path that connected Barnard Avenue and Crest Drive and allowed people to avoid walking on the road.

- expressed concern that a consistent Public Safety Officer (PSO) was not assigned to Oakwood.
- expressed concerns about delayed snow plowing and noted that the lack of sidewalks in most of the neighborhood meant that people were forced to walk on icy streets.
- asked the City to remember the neighborhood associations when the annual budget was prepared.
- thanked the City for paving Amherst and Barnard Avenues and for repairing sidewalks.
- thanked the Community Planning and Economic Development Department for helping develop and implement the Oakwood Neighborhood Plan.
- thanked the officers at Station 7 who stood in the rain so kids could see the fire truck at the Trunk or Treat event.
- announced the Holiday Party would take place on December 8th and distributed a flyer for the Bell Book and Canto concert.

Oakwood
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

Commissioner Urban stated the path through the woods to Woods Lake may have been a native American path with a history.

Ms. Lord stated there were two paths, from the park to Crest Drive and from Crest Drive to Kensington Drive, and both were used at least as far back as when the amusement park was there.

Commissioner Urban suggested the Association contact their PSO's prior to neighborhood meetings with questions and concerns, so the PSO's would know what to address.

Mayor Anderson suggested the Association take their concerns about deer to the Environmental Concerns Committee. Mayor Anderson stated there would be a lot of community engagement before any City action was taken because people had diverging views how to control the deer population.

City Manager Ritsema reported the City was looking at the ownership of the pathway through the woods with the intent to do something about it. City Manager Ritsema stated the expected service level for snow plowing was to have local streets cleared within two days of the end of a snow event. City Manager Ritsema stated he would talk with Chief Thomas about PSO's at neighborhood meetings.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Manager Ritsema stated he thought there was no difference in prioritization for snow plowing between neighborhoods with sidewalks and neighborhoods without sidewalks, but he would ask Public Services Director James Baker.

Mayor Anderson reported there was a new group that was working on a neighborhood plan for the Stuart Neighborhood, and residents of the Douglas Neighborhood were holding a meeting on November 19th to discuss re-forming the defunct Douglas Neighborhood Association.

Public Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for public comments, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner
Comments

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on January 21, 2020

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: January 21, 2020

This page was left blank intentionally.