

	<p>A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.</p>
Roll Call	<p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Mayor Don Cooney David Anderson Erin Knott Jack Urban</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell* Matt Milcarek Shannon Sykes</p>
	<p>Also present were Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
Commissioner Excused	<p>Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved to excuse the absences of Mayor Hopewell and Commissioners Milcarek and Sykes. With a voice vote the motion passed.</p>
Communications	<p>An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications, but no communications were offered.</p>
Neighborhood Communications	<p>Neighborhood communications were received next.</p> <p>Representatives from the following neighborhood associations were present and addressed the City Commission:</p> <p><u>Oakwood Neighborhood Association</u> Marcia Wallace, Board Secretary Alfonso Espinosa, Board Member Cheryl Lord, Executive Director</p> <p><u>Stuart Area Restoration Association</u> Max Tibbitts, Chair Valarie Bader, Vice Chair Dana Underwood, Resident</p>
Oakwood Neighborhood Association	<p>The Oakwood Neighborhood Association representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - distributed copies of the November/December 2016 edition of the <i>Oakwood Times</i> newsletter and reviewed upcoming events. - discussed the composition of the new Board of Directors for the Association. - reviewed activity statistics through the month of October: 4000+ contacts through the Neighborhood Center; over 1100 youth contacts; a full after school youth program; over \$71,000 (3000+ hours) worth of volunteer hours; and 368 Facebook contacts. - reported over \$5,000 was raised for Neighborhood Center food bank over a 2-week period through the D&W cash register program.

- reviewed the programs being offered by the Association.
- expressed concern about lack of bus service in the neighborhood.
- distributed pictures of a broken fence at the neighborhood tot lot and expressed concern for the safety of children.
- distributed pictures of a fence around the perimeter of a parcel at the corner of Benton and Laird that contained a retention pond and expressed concern about young people climbing the fence to retrieve balls or toys.
- reported the Association had received complaints about the deterioration of some of the new fences at Woods Lake Park.
- noted the leaves had not been picked up on Oakland Drive.
- stated the intersection of Kent and Amherst had a "dip" that was problematic for cars.
- invited Commissioners to the annual holiday party on December 11th and the annual holiday concert on December 17th.

Oakwood
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

Commissioner Urban suggested the Association ask the City to put the fence around the high water mark of the retention pond rather than at the border of the property.

The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives:

- thanked everyone in the City who was involved with the Jay Rhoades Building demolition.
- stated the Association had done a lot of legal work to get parcel lines in order so development of the Jay Rhoades Building property could begin.
- remarked on grand reopening of Fire Station #5 as a youth center.
- thanked the City for pursuing the Foundation for Excellence.
- expressed concern that some of the recent Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 (IK2025) meetings had been chaotic because there were so many attendees, which resulted in a lack of parking and difficulty getting tasks done.
- reported the Association would host an IK2025 meeting on January 24th.
- expressed concerns about new transitional housing projects that were being proposed for the Stuart Neighborhood and noted the Neighborhood already hosted a homeless shelter and an adult foster care facility. Mr. Tibbitts indicated outside forces were trying to capitalize on the FFE, which he said would raise new questions, such as where transitional should be located.

Stuart Area
Restoration
Association

Stuart Area
Restoration
Association
(cont'd)

- stated the Association would be asking the City to regulate short-term rental houses.

*Mayor Hopewell arrived at 7:29 p.m.

- remarked on the responsibilities of neighborhood representatives on CDAAC and the difference between those responsibilities and the responsibilities of City staff.

- invited Commissioners to the Association's annual holiday party on Sunday, December 18th.

Commissioner Anderson questioned whether a different version of the Allen Boulevard project was supposed to come back to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Tibbitts responded to Commissioner Anderson and stated the problem with the Allen Boulevard project was the transition housing being proposed did not fit any of the categories in the zoning code or state law.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Tibbitts stated the Association had 10 suggestions for the regulation of short term rental properties, which would be communicated to City staff.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Mr. Tibbitts stated the Association did not was subsidized housing or any use directly related to poverty in the development at Douglas Avenue and North Street.

Citizen Comments

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

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, spoke about missing trash barrels at bus shelters.

Charlotte Judd, City resident, spoke about an attack on her son and grandson near the bus stop at the corner of Jackson and Russell Streets.

Margaret Bruder, City resident, expressed concern for her neighbors who were immigrants and asked that Kalamazoo consider becoming a "sanctuary City."

Commissioner
Comments

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

Vice Mayor Cooney stated he had attended a meeting with Congressman Fred Upton and community leaders and reported issues like immigration were being discussed. Vice Mayor Cooney noted Kalamazoo Public Safety Officers were not immigration enforcement officers.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on December 19, 2016

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: December 19, 2016