

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Sean McCann
Barbara Miller
Stephanie Moore*

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

Also present were City Manager Ken Collard, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioner Moore. With a voice vote, the motion passed.

Miscellaneous Communications

An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications, but no communications were offered.

Neighborhood Communications

Representatives of the following neighborhood organizations were present:

Homecrest Neighborhood Association

Dick DeVisser, Chair
Joel Schoonbeck, Resident

Stuart Area Restoration Association

Jean Harden, President
Matthew Baldwin-Wilson, Executive Director

*Commissioner Moore arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Homecrest Neighborhood Association

The Homecrest Neighborhood Association representatives:

- expressed concern about the potential use of the former paper mill property behind the Neighborhood as an effective staging area for accessing residents' properties. Mr. DeVisser reported hearing gunshots from this area from time to time.
- stated they monitored safety issues in the Edison Neighborhood.
- reported Homecrest Avenue was badly deteriorated near the circle at the bottom of the hill and requested that this street be milled and resurfaced.
- expressed concern about a patched area of Homecrest Avenue that had sunk three to four inches since wintertime.
- thanked the City for its quick response on pothole repair.

Homecrest
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

- discussed concerns about the former Allied Paper Site and leakage of the PCB containment system.
- requested that Environmental Services Supervisor Mike Wetzel send water testing reports for a spring that flowed from a resident's property into the Bryant Mill Pond.

Commissioner Cooney asked that Mr. DeVisser's concerns be addressed.

Commissioner McCann remarked on the former site of Mr. Wonderful.

Stuart Area
Restoration
Association

The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives:

- distributed the June 2009 Historic Stuart Neighborhood newsletter.
- reported home foreclosure rates in the Neighborhood were lower than in other neighborhoods.
- reported the Association was working closely with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the City on a plan to redevelop the J. Rhodes Building. Mr. Baldwin-Wilson stated this plan would dovetail with the Douglas Avenue Corridor Plan.
- stated volunteer would planting flowers on neighborhood street corners within the next week.
- noted the Association Board had created a Preservation Committee, which would create a neighborhood archive and a plan for at-risk homes.
- stated the Preservation Committee would be creating a plan for at-risk homes.
- indicated the Association also had committees for advocacy, safety, beautification, and board development.
- stated larceny crimes were increasing in the Neighborhood.
- reported the Association was reorganizing the Neighborhood Watch program into a Block Watch.
- expressed appreciation for Neighborhood Liaison Officer Greg Magnan and requested an increase in Public Safety patrols.
- presented the City Commission with a collage print entitled "The Fences of Kalamazoo."
- expressed excitement about new board members.

Commissioner Anderson commented on the fences collage and expressed excitement about young families moving into the Neighborhood.

Citizen Comments

In response to a question from Commissioner Moore, Mr. Baldwin-Wilson stated Dacia's was located in the Fairmont Neighborhood, but the Stuart Neighborhood did realize some negative effects from this area.

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

Asha Khazad, City resident, described a trash problem near the Family Dollar Store on Portage Street across the street from the Washington Square Co-op Apartments. Mr. Khazad state the manager at Family Dollar Store had removed a garbage from the entryway, but people were still leaving garbage there and in tehparking lot.

Cathy Schultz, City resident, reported she had experienced two break-ins in 2009. Ms. Schultz expressed support for the Stuart Neighborhood but stated she needed to "see something happen" relative to her family's safety.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on July 20, 2009

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: July 20, 2009