

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Sean McCann
Barbara Miller
Stephanie Moore

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney

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 absence of Vice Mayor McKinney. 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:

Fairmont Neighborhood Association

Joy Russcher, President
Melissa Linkfield, Neighborhood Administrator

Gateway/South Street Historic District

Kim Cummings, Member

West Main Hill Neighborhood Association

Mike Van Vaerenbergh, Board Member

Fairmont Neighborhood Association

The Fairmont Neighborhood Association representatives:

- distributed the Summer 2009 edition of the *Fairmont News*.
- remarked the Association had been in its new facility for five months.
- reported participation in the Neighborhood Watch had increased.
- described the Association's response to the fire at Fox Ridge Apartments and its assistance to victims of the fire.
- indicated the Neighborhood was using workers from Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) and noted the supervisor was a Neighborhood resident.
- stated eight families participated in the Building Blocks Program.

Fairmont
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

- indicated the Association would insurance money from the City to replace computers that were damaged in the flooding of the old Neighborhood center in December.
- reported the Association was working with the Stuart Area Restoration Association on the Douglas Avenue Corridor Study. Ms. Russcher stated traffic safety was a big concern, and she stated the Association would like Douglas Avenue to be one lane in each direction with a center turn lane.
- invited Commissioners to the Fairmont National Night Out event at the new Neighborhood center.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. Linkfield stated the Association was utilizing six workers from YOU workers, who were between 14 and 17 years of age.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Linkfield stated the Association's new facility appeared to be a feasible long-term facility solution, but the Association was waiting for City Attorney Robinson to develop a purchase option for the Neighborhood center.

In response to questions from Commissioner Moore, Ms. Linkfield stated the Fox Ridge Apartment managers would not terminate the leases of fire victims, and Section 8 recipients were not able to transfer their vouchers to other housing options until Fox Ridge terminated the leases. Ms. Linkfield explained she had little contact with the Fox Ridge managers as Neighborhood Liaison Officer Greg Magnan was the liaison between the Neighborhood Association and Fox Ridge.

Gateway/South
Street Historic
District

The Gateway/South Street Historic District representative:

- remarked on the dedication of the West Gateway Colonnade and thanked the City for its generosity in making an 11th hour donation to the project.
- reported historic district banners would be installed on utility poles along Lovell Street once the repaving project was complete.
- thanked the City for hauling trash and debris from Building Blocks project sites.

West Main Hill
Neighborhood
Association

The West Main Hill Neighborhood Association representative:

- reported recent efforts to beautify the West Main Hill gateway included the installation of banners on the light poles.
- invited Commissioners to the USTA/West Main Hill picnic on August 11th.
- noted the Association did not have a special event planned for National Night Out, but Neighborhood residents were encouraged to spend time outside and turn on their porch lights.

West Main Hill
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

- stated residents continued to work in Neighborhood parks and reported on new landscaping in Lovell Street Park and a new sign in Henderson Park.
- indicated the Neighborhood Association Board was full at 12 members.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. Mike Van Vaerenbergh stated the Neighborhood was not employing any workers from Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

City Planner Keith Hernandez invited citizens to attend a public input session for the City's Master Plan at the offices of the Northside Association for Community Development on July 21st from 4-6 p.m.

Citizen Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for citizens to address the City Commission, but no comments were made.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on August 3, 2009

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: August 3, 2009