

Roll Call

The City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Friday, March 26, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney  
Terry Kuseske

Commissioners Excused

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

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absences of Vice Mayor McKinney and Commissioner Kuseske. With a voice vote, the motion passed.

Presentation by the Hispanic American Council

Lori Mercedes and Phillip Cruz, Program Coordinators for the Hispanic American Council, reported on the following initiatives:

- making the Kalamazoo Promise a reality for students through youth programming and a literacy campaign.
- the development and growth of the Edison United group, a loose organization of representatives from various community groups and government agencies.

Ms. Mercedes stated the Council had implemented a strategy for engaging young people that involved identifying the youth who were natural leaders in the Neighborhood, providing them with training, and then letting them organize and plan events and programs.

Mr. Cruz highlighted the Council's dependence on collaborative relationships with The Boys and Girls Club, FIRE, and Western Michigan University (WMU). Mr. Cruz stated the WMU students had been particularly effective at achieving lasting results from their efforts.

Ms. Mercedes noted creation of the Edison United group was an aggressive approach to addressing issues in the Neighborhood, and she invited Commissioners to attend the group's meetings at noon on the third Thursday of every month.

In response to questions from Commissioner Moore, Ms. Mercedes reported on efforts to raise awareness about the U.S. Census and stated the Council was working to inform parents about the Freedom School.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Mercedes stated the collaborative relationships with Boys and Girls Club, FIRE, and WMU were not particularly formal, but they were close relationships.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. Mercedes stated five Neighborhood pastors and two Hispanic pastors from outside the neighborhood were active in the literacy campaign, and she announced the Council's summer kick-off event would be a block party on Dewey Street.

Presentation by the Hispanic American Council (cont'd)

Commissioner Cooney noted a goal of the Edison United group was to make use of as many facilities in the neighborhood as possible for youth programming.

In response to questions from Mayor Hopewell, Mr. Cruz stated the Council had a computer lab with 12 computers, and he indicated they were working with City inspectors to conduct workshops for Edison residents on tenant/landlord issues.

Next, an opportunity was given for Commissioners to discuss community issues, but no issues were discussed.

Discussion of Community Issues

Finally, an opportunity was given for citizen comments, but no comments were offered.

Citizen Comments

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on April 5, 2010

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor  
Dated: April 5, 2010