

<p>Roll Call</p>	<p>A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney David Anderson Stephanie Bell Don Cooney Terry Kuseske Barbara Miller</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None</p> <p>Also present were City Manager Ken Collard, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
<p>Miscellaneous Communications</p>	<p>An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications, but no communications were offered.</p>
<p>Neighborhood Communications</p>	<p>Representatives of the following neighborhood organizations were present:</p> <p><u>Fairmont Neighborhood Association</u> <b>Joy Russcher</b>, President <b>Brian Schaff</b>, Vice President <b>Melissa Linkfield</b>, Neighborhood Administrator</p> <p><u>Northside Neighborhood Association</u> <b>Anthony Poplar</b>, President <b>Mattie Jordan-Woods</b>, Executive Director</p> <p><u>Stuart Area Restoration Association</u> <b>Jean Harden</b>, Board Chair <b>Jay Bonsignore</b>, Board Member</p>
<p>Fairmont Neighborhood Association</p> <p><b>78689</b></p>	<p>The Fairmont Neighborhood Association representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- distributed the Spring 2010 edition of the <i>Fairmont News</i>.</li> <li>- reported the Building Blocks and YOU summer youth employment programs were underway.</li> <li>- reported the Association had received a report at it last meeting from Bob Miller, Vice President for Community Outreach at Western Michigan University (WMU), regarding the Blakeslee Street property.</li> <li>- stated the Association staff was settling into their new offices at former Public Safety Station #5 and expressed appreciation for the receipt of five donated Mac desktop computers.</li> <li>- announced there would be a public forum about the Douglas Avenue corridor improvements on May 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>

- commended Nancy Hess from CP&D who had attended the last two Association meetings and helped with problem properties.
- announced the Association would host an open house on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 p.m. to celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- thanked the City Commission for providing funding to the Association
- announced the Association had created a Facebook page and invited Commissioners to become "Facebook Friends" with the Neighborhood.
- discussed the recent murder at the Fox Ridge Apartments and expressed hope that the new management would deal aggressively and effectively with crime issues.
- expressed concern about the rise in violent crime in the Neighborhood.

Fairmont  
Neighborhood  
Association (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Moore, Ms. Linkfield stated the Association would disseminate information about Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) summer employment program as soon as it became available.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moore, Ms. Linkfield stated the Fox Ridge Apartments had experienced a multiple management changes over the past few years, including a change within the past month. Ms. Linkfield stated the new managers seemed to be better than the former managers at dealing with criminal activity. Ms. Linkfield explained the Public Safety Department's enforcement efforts were hampered by the structure of the buildings in the complex, which allowed crimes to take place unseen.

The Northside Neighborhood Association representatives:

- distributed the April/May edition of the *Northside Communicator*.
- discussed the *Let's Barbeque and Talk* session that was held on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jordan-Woods stated attendees had do offer solutions when they brought up problems or issues in the Neighborhood. Ms. Jordan-Woods also reported young people filled out job applications, which were evaluated to see how the Association could facilitate the job search process.
- described a cycle of juvenile crime where the leaders committed crimes and were incarcerated only to have their followers commit similar crimes a few years later. Ms. Jordan-Woods stated many non-profit organizations provided resources to help young people in the neighborhood, especially after a high profile incident, but these resources did not reach the young people who were actually causing the problems. Ms. Jordan-Woods indicated she was continuing to ask the question, "How do we get resources to the kids who are causing the problems?"

Northside  
Neighborhood  
Association

**78690**

Northside  
Neighborhood  
Association (cont'd)

**78690**

- stated the Association was focusing on identifying and developing activities for young people as summer approached.
- reported the Northside Association for Community Development (NACD) would be a Focus Training Center site by the end of May and would receive computers with software to improve literacy levels.
- thanked the Public Services Department for cleaning the streets.
- asked the City Commission to study the effectiveness of having a traffic signal at the intersection of Pitcher and Ransom Streets
- requested a study of the level of safety at the Harrison/Ransom Street intersection.
- reported the Association staff had been talking with the County Treasurer and staff in the Community Planning and Development Department about homes in tax foreclosure and the large number of homes that had gone through the dangerous buildings process, with the result being a demolition order. Ms. Jordan-Woods stated she was not opposed to demolition as long as the homes were replaced, and she expressed confidence that a plan would be developed to rebuild houses on the Northside.
- expressed hope that a lease for the grocery store would be signed by the end of the month and reported the agreement would include a training program to ensure there would be local people who were trained to run the store if the operators pulled out.

Stuart Area  
Restoration  
Association

**78691**

The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives:

- distributed and reviewed the Association's *2010 Annual Report to the Neighbors*.
- stated the Association was using a Michigan Now! grant to fund the development of a new strategic plan.
- reported the Association had paid off the mortgage for its offices and updated its bookkeeping system.
- stated the Association was working with Senior Engineer Fred Nagler and the Fairmont Neighborhood Association on the Douglas Avenue corridor improvement project.
- stated crime was down in the Neighborhood.
- expressed concern about the number of boarding/rooming houses in the Neighborhood.
- reported Neighborhood Watch signs had been posted but expressed disappointment at how difficult the process had been to get the City's approval for the signs and stated the number of signs posted were fewer than desired.

- expressed concern about number of houses on the market at low prices.
- expressed concern about impact of proposed downtown arena on the Neighborhood.
- thanked the City for its financial support and for good relationships with City staff.

Stuart Area  
Restoration  
Association (cont'd)

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

Citizen Comments

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

Commissioner  
Comments

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on August 2, 2010

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor  
Dated: August 2, 2010