

	<p>A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, August 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.</p>
Roll Call	<p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney David Anderson Don Cooney</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Stephanie Bell Terry Kuseske Barbara Miller</p>
	<p>Also present were City Manager Ken Collard, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
Commissioners Excused	<p>Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Bell, Kuseske, and Miller. With a voice vote, the motion passed.</p>
Miscellaneous Communications	<p>An opportunity was given for miscellaneous communications, but no communications were offered.</p>
Neighborhood Communications	<p>Representatives of the following neighborhood organizations were present:</p> <p><u>Eastside Neighborhood Association</u> <b>Jermaine Robinson</b>, President <b>Pat Taylor</b>, Executive Director</p> <p><u>Stuart Area Restoration Association</u> <b>Sharon Carlson</b>, President <b>Matthew Baldwin-Wilson</b>, Executive Director</p> <p><u>Woods Lake Neighborhood</u> <b>Jim Langerveld</b>, President</p>
Eastside Neighborhood Association	<p>The Eastside Neighborhood Association representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- introduced Jermaine Robinson as the new Board President.</li> <li>- reported a board retreat would be taking place in a few weeks.</li> <li>- thanked the City Commission for its support and stated the board would be asking for additional support in the future.</li> <li>- noted the City had provided opportunities for the Association to network with various departments, provide information for residents, and solve challenges for the Neighborhood.</li> </ul> <p>In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Taylor stated they had received a list of houses identified for renovation and demolition under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).</p>

Mr. Robinson stated they were waiting for more information on how property owners could access NSP funds for home repairs and renovations.

Vice Mayor McKinney expressed frustration that the Association's report did not provide a clear picture of the Neighborhood's needs, and she suggested the Association partner with the City rather than view the City as a source of funds.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Mr. Robinson expressed concern about the lack of programs for young people, especially programs to help them with school work.

Ms. Taylor stated the summer had been fairly quiet from a Public Safety standpoint, and the Neighborhood had partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department for the summer youth employment program.

The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives:

- distributed packets of "donut seeds."
- introduced Sharon Carlson as the Board Chair.
- reported the Association had received a \$6,000 grant from Michigan Now! to increase its organizational capacity.
- distributed and reviewed a brochure for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Kalamazoo Historic Homes Tour.
- distributed the August 2010 edition of the *Historic Stuart Neighborhood* newsletter.
- thanked the Public Services Department for installing Neighborhood Watch signs.
- reported the Association was working with staff in the Community Planning and Development Department (CP&D) to address the issue of unlicensed group homes.
- indicated the Association was working with the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority and Laura Lam in CP&D to get NSP funds for three homes on Willard Street. Ms. Carlson expressed a preference that these homes be renovated rather than demolished, as vacant lots in the Neighborhood not been redeveloped in the best ways.
- stated they had been working with staff at the Public Services Department and the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding the resurfacing of Douglas Avenue. Mr. Baldwin-Wilson indicated the Association wanted this project to utilize the "complete streets" approach.

Eastside  
Neighborhood  
Association (cont'd)

Stuart Area  
Restoration  
Association

Stuart Area  
Restoration  
Association (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Baldwin-Wilson stated the Association was working with the Fairmont Neighborhood Association on the Douglas Avenue project.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Ms. Carlson identified the abandoned houses on Willard Street and stated they had been vacant for several years.

Woods Lake  
Neighborhood

The Woods Lake Neighborhood representative:

- reported the neighborhood had paid for a private company to treat the lake for invasive plants.
- thanked Public Safety Officers for patrolling Woods Lake Beach.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Langerveld stated he was not aware of significant foreclosure activity in the neighborhood.

Citizen Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for citizen comments.

Asha Kashzad, City resident, asked if there had been any further developments regarding a youth center in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Commissioner  
Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments by City Commissioners.

Mayor Hopewell stated he was involved with the group trying to raise funds for the Eastside Youth Center, and he expressed hope that work on a youth center could begin in three years.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on September 7, 2010

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor  
Dated: September 7, 2010