

A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 19, 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 Miller, seconded by Commissioner McCann, 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:

Oakwood Neighborhood Association

Michael Markel, President
Cheryl Lord, Executive Director

Stuart Area Restoration Association

Jean Harden, President
Matthew Baldwin-Wilson, Executive Director

Oakwood Neighborhood Association

The Oakwood Neighborhood representatives:

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- introduced Michael Markel, the new Board President.
- distributed the October issue of *The Oakwood Times*.
- reported on the success of the Neighborhood's summer youth program, which was funded by a City Commission Initiative Fund grant.
- indicated the Board of Directors had updated the Association's strategic plan, and a consultant was working with the Board to make the Association more self sustaining.
- noted there were two Building Blocks sites in the Neighborhood and thanked Jeff Bye for picking up trash from these sites during the project.
- reported the Association would be assisting with the weatherization of 10 homes.

Oakwood
Neighborhood
Association
(cont'd)

- thanked the City for letting the Association use a lot on Springmont for a Community Garden and remarked on the success of the project.
- stated the Association was working to improve the parks at Woods Lake.
- reported the Summer Youth Employment participants did good work.
- commended Neighborhood Liaison Officer (NLO) Lakisha Jones and Public Safety Officer (PSO) Chris Hancock for their work in the Neighborhood.
- reported the Association was in need of funding for its after school program beginning in Fall 2010.
- noted four or five houses in the 2400 block of Logan Avenue had been experiencing a sulfurous smell and taste in their water.
- expressed concern about the lack of safety for pedestrians at the intersection of Parkview Avenue and Oakland Drive.
- stated the Association was trying to raise funds for much-needed maintenance and repairs at the neighborhood center.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miller, Mr. Markel stated the food from the Community Garden was distributed to the participants, and any extra food was given to needy people.

Commissioner Cooney noted the City Commission would be taking action at its 7:00 meeting on an item related to the Oakland/Parkview intersection.

Stuart Area
Restoration
Association

The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives:

- reported the Association had been participating in Plan Kalamazoo and the CDBG Consolidated Plan processes.
- stated the Association was in the process of reviewing its own strategic plan.
- highlighted the need for changes to the City's zoning regulations to address specific characteristics of the Stuart Neighborhood.
- distributed small chalkboards to Commissioners to illustrate that the Association wanted to have a clean slate with the City.
- expressed optimism that residents and City officials could work together to help the Stuart Neighborhood remain "a jewel in the City's crown."

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Citizen Comments

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 2, 2009

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: November 2, 2009