

	<p>A neighborhood meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, June 16, 2014 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 David Anderson Bob Cinabro Don Cooney Barbara Miller Jack Urban</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Stephanie Moore*</p> <p>Also present were Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
Commissioner Excused	<p>Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Moore. 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 from the following neighborhood associations were present and addressed the City Commission:</p> <p><u>Parker-Duke Neighborhood Association</u> Bill Hughes, President</p> <p><u>Stuart Area Restoration Association</u> Max Tibbets, President Dana Underwood, Vice Chair</p> <p><u>Whites/Edgemoor/Bronson Neighborhood Association</u> Karen Wellman, Secretary</p>
Parker-Duke Neighborhood Association	<p>The Parker-Duke Neighborhood Association representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reported Habitat for Humanity was renovating 1117 Par 4. - invited Commissioners to the public dedication of a new community park at Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church. - stated there were four block parties planned for 2014.
Stuart Area Restoration Association	<p>The Stuart Area Restoration Association representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reported they had hired a new Executive Director, Lois Johnson, who had an extensive background in communications. - reported there were two new board members, who increased the diversity of the board. - stated Station 702 was scheduled to open on September 1st at the corner of Douglas Avenue and North Street.

- stated SARA was trying to obtain three lots from the Kalamazoo County Land Bank for development.
 - thanked the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) for being responsive to complaints about activities at Dacia's.
 - expressed appreciation to Kalamazoo Public Schools for renovating Woodward Elementary School and stated the renovations were raising awareness of the school.
 - stated SARA was conducting a meet-and-greet survey among residents and reported the survey results collected to date had indicated people moved to Stuart because of the old houses and proximity to downtown; and these were also the sources of the two biggest complaints.
 - indicated upcoming board development activities would include brainstorming new ideas for the neighborhood.
 - described SARA's initiative to contact property owners regarding code enforcement issues before reporting the property to the City for actual enforcement.
 - expressed appreciation to City departments for being timely and transparent in their responses to the neighborhood.
- *Commissioner Moore arrived at 6:17 p.m.
- commented on the benefits of being a historic district.
 - thanked Laura Lam, Julie Johnston and the Community Planning and Development Department staff for their hard work and service.
 - thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for helping with the flower beds on the street corners along Kalamazoo Avenue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moore, Mr. Tibbets described the proposed development of the Douglas Avenue/North Street intersection.

Commissioner Moore reported there were broken windows at the J. Rhodes building.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moore, Mr. Tibbets explained the Association had met with the owners of Dacia's many times, and after the meetings things would be good for a while but then deteriorate.

Commissioner Moore expressed concern about the ingress/egress at Dacia's.

Commissioner Cinabro thanked the SARA representatives for addressing code violations directly with property owners before pursuing enforcement action with the City.

Stuart Area
Restoration
Association (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Anderson commended Association for its strategy of acquiring properties at Douglas and North.

Mayor Hopewell noted Woodward Elementary School was the most the disadvantaged school in the City and state he was doing what he could to encourage the students and teacher there.

In response to a question from Commissioner Moore, Mr. Tibbets stated noise and traffic on North Street was an issue that ebbed and flowed on the three or four year cycle.

Whites/Edgemoor/
Bronson Neighborhood

The Whites/Edgemoor/Bronson (WEB) Association representative:

- distributed a brochure entitled *Enjoy the Nature of the WEB Neighborhood*.
- reported the President and Treasurer were considering disbanding the Association.
- stated she would have to do the grassroots work to reorganize the association.
- stated she looked at neighborhood associations as more than just a Neighborhood Watch and asked what the City would like to see the Association do and become.

Commissioners offered the following suggestions for the WEB Neighborhood:

- engage in community building
- promote the neighborhood
- get involved with the Kalamazoo Neighborhoods Coalition
- be a model neighborhood for the rest of the City
- hold a neighborhood garage sale
- host a National Night Out event
- engage young people
- organize volunteer efforts at local schools
- send out a neighborhood newsletter or e-newsletter
- organize a speaker series to address topics of interest
- help the Stewards of Kleinstuck with their work days

Citizen Comments

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

Commissioner
Comments

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on August 4, 2014

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: August 4, 2014

DRAFT