

Arcadia Neighborhood Association Board Minutes February 19, 2024

President Rex Brueggermann called to meeting to order.

Attendance was recorded and introductions were made.

October 2023 Minutes were approved with one minor correction.

KDPS Community Police Officer Casey Crooks:

CPO Crooks shared Arcadia Neighborhood crime statistics with those in attendance. Rex Brueggermann pointed out that these crime statistics reflect the “larger Arcadia map” used by the City and not what the neighborhood considers to be the “Arcadia neighborhood.” CPO Crooks went on to cite examples of increased services to the neighborhood such as more direct patrols within the neighborhood, monitoring traffic around Arcadia Elementary, and speed sensors on West Michigan Ave. However, CPO Crooks again emphasized how unlocked vehicles continue to be crime targets within our neighborhood.

KDPS has switched to **Central Square Technology** to provide the public with valuable information about recent crime activity in their neighborhood. The goal is to assist KDPS in reducing crime through better informed citizenry. You can search “*City of Kalamazoo Crime Map*” and keep informed about crime statistics within the Arcadia neighborhood.

Old Business:

A. S. Kendall Pathway Project:

A plan to rebuild the S. Kendall pathway is under consideration. Identifying a source for funding the project and setting a calendar date to begin the project are the next two steps.

B. Internal Positive Neighborhood Projects:

Steps are being taken to have neighborhood plant exchange in early April. Karen Williams will share information about this event on the Arcadia Neighborhood website.

C. Report on Meetings with the City in various forms:

Rex Brueggermann, Michael Coyle, and Ken Larson attended the *Kalamazoo Neighborhood Retreat* sponsored by the City. One purpose of the *Retreat* was to give neighborhoods access to ideas and information that could help with neighborhood strategic plans. We attended a presentation by Mattie Jordan-Woods, former Northside Association President, a session with the Michigan Economic Development Program, a session on Neighborhood Asset Management, and a session about the new KDPS Crime Mapping tool. The final session included a number of booths manned by representatives from Kalamazoo county services. Michael Coyle spoke with a representative from Consumers Energy and found out Consumers will be replacing gas pipelines throughout the Arcadia neighborhood during 2026.

D. Rezoning Residential Property:

The City of Kalamazoo has reviewed and revised the commercial zones throughout the city. Their next step is to review and revise zoning for residential property. Rex Brueggermann and Michael Coyle met with Mayor Anderson and Commissioner Praedel to discuss future residential zoning decisions that will affect the Arcadia Neighborhood. The **neighborhood goal** is to accept redevelopment within existing zoning regulations. We are not taking a stand to stop future development but to maintain present zoning regulations. The neighborhood will also move forward and develop a neighborhood plan.

D. Treasurer's Report: Michael Coyle is the new Treasurer. There is \$1300 in the account.

E. Operating Agreement:

Attending members voted unanimously to take the first steps to set up an Operating Agreement for the Arcadia Neighborhood. The first step will create a formal corporate existence.

New Business:

Thirty Speakers Project:

Michele Oliver v. Kalamazoo Board Of Education- District Court Case 1973

The *Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Master Plan* enters its final two years and a new city wide master plan is in the making. As the Westside area plan is developed and implemented a unified, politically sophisticated, and proactive voice is critical for the Neighborhood while working with City commissioners and City staff. The *Thirty Speakers Project* can serve as a vehicle to advocate for our neighborhood. Thirty individuals speaking to City staff and City Commissioners with a unified, politically sophisticated, and proactive voice can impact future plans.

The 1973 court case Michele Oliver v. Kalamazoo Board of Education can serve as a starting point for the *Thirty Speakers Project*. Arcadia neighborhood has an image established from earlier historical events that as a neighborhood we need to be aware. For instance, this District case can help us understand how others might perceive us when we address future housing and zoning issues.

Meeting Adjourned