

## Arcadia Neighborhood Association October 23, 2023 Minutes (unapproved)

**President Rex Brueggemann** called the meeting to order.

**Attendance** was recorded. (approx. 15 people)

**Minutes:** September Minutes were approved.

### Old Business:

#### Discussion of Last Year's Activities and Plans for the 2023-2024 Year:

The Arcadia Neighborhood Association will continue to define itself as a neighborhood that includes about 400 single-family homes on the west side of Kalamazoo. Residents enjoy a neighborhood elementary school, convenient access to many city venues, an adjoining youth soccer complex and tree-lined streets. Interaction with the City of Kalamazoo will be based on this description.

**Incorporate the Neighborhood:** The advantages/disadvantages to incorporate the neighborhood will be placed on the January agenda.

**Kendall Ave. Urban Pathway Project:** The pathway has been and will remain a priority for the neighborhood. Next meeting with the City to flush out the details will take place Nov. 2, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

**Rezoning of Residential Property:** Removing the "orange strip" in the Imagine Kalamazoo Future Development Plan 2025 remains another neighborhood priority. The orange strip runs along the southern edge of our neighborhood. Our goal is not to stop development but to have this section of the neighborhood developed in a way that will compliment the neighborhood.

**Accomplishments:** The group identified some of the following neighborhood accomplishments during 2023:

1. hosting the Ice Cream Social;
2. working with the city on projects to improve sidewalks and streets;
3. partnering with the City to develop the urban pathway;
4. identifying burned out street lights to replace;
5. notifying KPS and Arboretum Property Association to remove dangerous and damaged trees along neighborhood properties;

6. addressing and resolving problems at Campus Point Mall with the City and WMU;
7. identifying and reporting dangerous traffic concerns at the Howard St. and West Michigan Ave. intersection, speeding along West Michigan Ave. and traffic issues within the Arcadia neighborhood; and
8. addressing rezoning concerns with the City that impact the neighborhood.

**New Business:**

**Election:** Slate of Officers and Board Members for the 2023-2024 year was presented and elected unanimously. List of Officers and Board Members will be posted on ArcadiaKzoo.com website. Paul Schneidenbach is stepping down as the ANA Treasurer. Michael Coyle has volunteered to become the ANA Treasurer. ANA would like to recognize and thank Paul for his years of service as Treasurer. Paul assured the group that he will continue to participate in neighborhood endeavors.

Karen Williams raised the following question along with some suggestions for consideration at future neighborhood meetings:

**Question: What do we as a neighborhood care about?**

Suggestions:

1. Involve the neighborhood in the future design of West Michigan Ave.
2. Collect polystyrene to recycle at the Kalamazoo Fairgrounds.
3. Develop a neighborhood plant exchange. Maybe partner with Wild Ones a non-profit organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.
4. Organize a teen-age odd job employment program within the neighborhood.
5. Establish a contact liaison with WMU.

**Speeding:** Vehicles speeding through the Arcadia neighborhood remains a serious problem. Terry Aman, head of KPS Transportation, and CPO Casey Crooks have been contacted and made aware of the problem. The best strategy to address this problem is local. Word of mouth from neighbor to neighbor is a neighbor to neighbor solution.

**The Heritage Facility:** The abandoned building has become a center for mischief. The property has been purchased and plans for its development have been filed with the City. Stay tuned.

**Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting:** January, 2024. HAPPY NEW YEAR!