CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2018

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Randall at 7:00 p.m. At the request of Mayor Randall, the City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban and Mayor Patricia Randall. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson was absent with notice and excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, Assistant City Attorney Charlie Bear and City Clerk Adam Herringa.

Mayor Randall provided a synopsis of the Mayor and City Council for the Day Program and asked City Clerk Herringa to swear in the students who were voted Student Councilmember for the Day and Student Mayor for the Day. City Clerk Herringa administered the Oath of Office to Student Councilmembers Riley Burns, Hannah Geerlings, Mikayla Graham, Abby Lawler, Nicholas Johnson and Ashriya Patel. He then administered the Oath of Office to Jaime Sackett as Student Mayor for the Day. The Student Mayor and Student Councilmembers took their seats at the dais.

At the request of Student Mayor Sackett, Pastor Ron Hansen of Pathfinder Church provided the invocation. Afterwards, City Council, the Student Councilmembers and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the City Clerk called the roll for the Student Councilmembers with the following members present: Riley Burns, Hannah Geerlings, Mikayla Graham, Abby Lawler, Nicholas Johnson, Ashriya Patel and Student Mayor Jaime Sackett.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Randall shared where the public can access the meeting agenda and asked if any Councilmember or anyone in the audience would like an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Reid asked that Item A.4 (Sole Source Purchase of Crack Sealing Material) and Item A.8 (Preliminary Plat of West Lake Estates) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 13 and Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 27, 2018: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of February 27, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

ADOPTION OF REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to adopt a refunding bond resolution authorizing limited tax pledge to payment of the Downtown Development Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. (Resolution recorded on page 439 of Resolution Book #46.)

MICROSOFT OPEN VALUE SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT WITH CDW-G: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve a three-year extension renewal of the Microsoft Open Value Subscription Agreement with CDW-G in the annual amount of $63,824.28 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PALO ALTO FIREWALLS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the purchase of two Palo Alto firewalls and associated three-year maintenance and support with Data Strategy at a total cost of $66,368 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

FINAL APPROVAL OF WHISPERING MEADOWS 4: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to grant final approval of the Whispering Meadows No. 4 single-family residential subdivision at 6525 Angling Road, subject to finalization of the storm water agreement, finalization of sidewalk easements and installation of sidewalks and street trees by November 2020. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

2018 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to adopt the 2018 Recreation and Open Space Plan Update and authorize the City Manager to submit the approved plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to comply with applicable grant requirement guidelines. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. (Resolution recorded on page 449 in Resolution Book #46.)

CONTRACT FOR STORM SEWER CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION INSPECTION: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to award a construction contract for Storm Sewer Closed Circuit Television Inspection to Pipetek Infrastructure Services of Plymouth, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed $63,718 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PURCHASE OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES, MAST ARMS AND ASSEMBLIES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to award a contract for the purchase of traffic signal poles, mast arms and assemblies for the projects on South Westnedge Avenue at J. L. Hudson Drive, Portage Road and Romence Parkway, West Centre Avenue and Oakland Drive to Maico Industries, Inc., in the amount not to exceed $155,421 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

JANUARY 2018 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the January 2018 Environmental Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals of January 8, Environmental Board of January 10, Youth Advisory Committee of January 15 and Planning Commission of February 1, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED AND MONTHLY REPORTS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the Materials Transmitted of February 13, 2018 and the Departmental Monthly Reports. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: At the request of Mayor Randall, the Student Councilmembers shared their thoughts and experiences related to the Mayor and City Council for the Day Program. Student Councilmember Ms. Ashriya Patel, a Portage Central High School Senior, shared her thoughts on the recent school shooting in Florida and shared that local high school students would be "Walking Toward Change" during an upcoming school day so that students can express and demonstrate support for educating their peers and the community about gun violence in our schools.

Mr. Alan Loveridge, 23965 88th Avenue, Marcellus, MI, shared his thoughts on the need and benefits of more stringent gun control.

Mr. Craig Davis, 8165 Black Forest Drive, shared his concern and frustration with flooding in homes along Black Forest Drive. He shared his belief that a nearby retention pond is part of the problem and asked that the City be more proactive when heavy rains fall in order to help prevent flooding before it happens. City Manager Shaffer stated that he would arrange a time to meet with Mr. Davis to review his concerns and shared what steps the City has taken to mitigate flooding in this area of the City and reviewed the distinction between groundwater and surface water.

COMMUNICATIONS:

ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD: At the invitation of Mayor Randall, Senior Citizen Advisory Board Chairperson Bill Wieringa provided City Council with a detailed update on the goals and objectives of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board and steps they have been taking to meet these goals. Councilmember Reid inquired if the upcoming Kalamazoo County question regarding a dedicated Senior Citizen millage has been discussed and if funding would be available to seniors in Portage if the measure is approved. Mr. Arthur Roberts, member of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board, shared that he recently attended a meeting on the millage in question and shared that the Senior Center in Portage would receive some funding. Student Mayor Sackett asked for a motion to receive the report. Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Annual Goals and Objectives Update of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS: Mayor Randall asked the students to read the meeting schedule for the record. Following the reading, Student Mayor Sackett asked for a motion to receive the Calendar of Meetings. Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the Calendar of Meetings. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Mayor Randall thanked the students for their participation and expressed optimism for the future leadership of the City of Portage. Mayor Randall encouraged students to register to vote and to utilize that right. The students were excused from the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

MEDICAL MARIHUANA FACILITIES ORDINANCES: At the invitation of Mayor Randall, City Manager Shaffer reviewed the history of the work of the City on crafting the proposed medical marihuana ordinances and highlighted recent proposed changes. In particular, Mr. Shaffer highlighted the elimination of a proposed 250 foot buffer along the boundary of the City and reviewed concerns that were raised regarding the proximity and setback of medical marihuana facilities from religious institutions. Councilmember Reid asked for clarification of the distance between religious institutions and medical marihuana facilities. Mr. Shaffer stated that under the ordinance presented at the January 23, 2018 City Council Meeting the ordinance requires a 1,000 foot distance requirement between a medical marihuana facility and a church. Given that the medical marihuana license is only good for one year at a time it would prove problematic if a church opened nearby as the medical marihuana facility would no longer be in compliance with the Code of Ordinances. Deputy Director of Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services, Chris Forth, reviewed churches that are currently in I-1, I-2 and B-3 Zoning districts and the ease with which religious institutions can be located in non-residential areas.

Councilmember Reid inquired if new day care facilities could pose the same problem for medical marihuana facilities as churches. Assistant City Attorney Charles Bear replied in the affirmative but clarified that the setback requirement only applies to state-licensed daycare facilities. Mayor

Randall stated that, based on the information being discussed, a medical marihuana facility could go through the steps and expense to create a facility and get licensed only to lose the license a year later if a day care or church opens up nearby. Councilmember Burns stated his support for an exception to prevent this from happening and asked why only churches and no other institutions were included. Mr. Shaffer stated that churches were specified due to their ability to locate in a multitude of zoning districts. Mr. Shaffer continued by suggesting that the ordinance be amended such that the setback requirement between churches, day care facilities and the like only apply during the initial licensing and not during renewal. Councilmember Knapp suggested that City Council formally amend the ordinance and City Manager Shaffer reviewed several ways that this potential problem could be addressed.

Councilmember Urban expressed frustration with the process utilized by City Administration to revise and share modifications to the proposed ordinances with City Council. Mr. Urban singled out as an example the provision of a modified ordinance immediately before the Regular Meeting which was different than had been previously communicated both the day before the Regular Meeting and the Friday before the Regular Meeting. Mr. Urban shared that he was confused by the various versions of the ordinances provided over recent days and that he found the whole process to be unprecedented. Mr. Urban then inquired what was changed between yesterday and today and why. City Manager Shaffer apologized for any confusion and stated that changes were made out of good intentions to address flaws that were noted by City Administration. He continued by stating that City Council can decide how it wishes to proceed. Mr. Shaffer stated that this has been a long process and the City is working hard to create a framework to regulate an industry that has long been considered illegal. Mr. Urban asked for clarification as to what changed between yesterday and today and stated that what was presented to City Council on January 23rd should have been what was on the agenda this evening. Mr. Shaffer reviewed the changes and highlighted changes made to the 125 foot setback requirement from residential areas. Mr. Urban stated that he had serious concerns with the final draft being presented the night of the meeting and asked for a redline/strikeout copy to show what changed between yesterday and today. He concluded by stating that what is being proposed is not what he came prepared to consider and expressed a desire to cancel the public hearing and hold it again at the next City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Reid commented that discussion tonight has revealed there are still some holes with the proposed ordinance and that it can be improved. Ms. Reid also shared her confusion and questioned voting on an ordinance that is different from January 23rd as the public has not had an opportunity for review.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to postpone the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting and refer this matter back to City Administration to clarify the changes that have been proposed and presented late today and provide us with the appropriate copies so we can understand the changes.

Councilmember Urban questioned whether the information on the proposed ordinance had been adequately shared with the public. Councilmember Burns expressed support for taking additional time to review the most recent proposed ordinance and Mayor Randall expressed support for continuing with the public hearing due to the number of people that are in the audience waiting to be heard. Councilmember Reid inquired if it was appropriate to open and hold a public hearing and Assistant City Attorney Bear stated that City Council could open the public hearing, hear comments and then adjourn the public hearing until the next City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Ford inquired if the ordinance presented this evening included changes other than the 125 foot buffer and proximity to religious institutions. Mr. Shaffer responded in the affirmative and reviewed the changes that were made to the proposed ordinances including the removal of the 250 foot buffer along the municipal boundary. Councilmember Urban disagreed and stated that multiple changes have been made.

Motion by Knapp, seconded by Ford, to amend the motion to allow for a public hearing this evening to be adjourned to the next scheduled City Council Meeting. Mayor Randall expressed concern that this matter has been under discussion for months, many meetings have been held and that she does not believe that, no matter how much effort is made, City Council will ever achieve a unanimous verdict. Mayor Randall stated that the City was a leader in this effort and that City Administration had been given clear direction. She expressed frustration that despite the number of meetings, documents and time spent the City is still unable to move ahead on this issue. Councilmember Reid spoke in favor of the amendment to the motion and for the public to be heard. She continued by expressing support for Administration presenting City Council with clear documents and that the finished ordinances will be stronger for taking this time. Councilmember Knapp and Councilmember Burns spoke in favor of the amended motion in order to ease any confusion of Councilmembers, have clarity on the proposed ordinance and still hear from the public in the audience. Upon a roll call vote on the amended motion, motion carried 5 to 1 with Mayor Randall voting no.

Following clarification, the now amended motion was "to allow for a public hearing this evening to be adjourned to our next scheduled City Council Meeting and refer this matter back to City Administration to clarify the changes that have been proposed and presented late today and provide us with the appropriate copies so we can understand the changes." Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 2 with Mayor Randall and Councilmember Ford voting no. Mayor Randall opened the public hearing on the Medical Marihuana Facilities Ordinances.

Mr. Richard Santek, 7537 Autumn Street, questioned what the setback requirements are based on. Mr. Shaffer reviewed the setback requirements and Mr. Santek expressed concern that marihuana facilities could be located so close to residential areas. He also expressed concern with potential negative impacts on the community and asked that City Council take another look at the distance requirements. Mr. Santek shared his opinion that the use of the term "medical" is the only reason the issue is being discussed and the real reason behind the push for these facilities is financial.

Mr. Tim Earl, 6862 Shallowford Way, complimented City Council on postponing a decision until the next meeting in order to review the final proposed ordinance. Mr. Earl asked City Council to reconsider not capping the number of licenses as, he stated, not doing so could place the desires of a few business owners ahead of residents. Mr. Earl cited the 2017 Community Survey and mentioned that approximately 80% of residents preferred either no facilities or only enough to serve the residents of Portage. As currently proposed, Mr. Earl continued, the ordinances would be in opposition to the results of the Community Survey. Mr. Earl stated that Portage has more to lose than to gain by openly welcoming medical marihuana into the City and referenced the stability and strength of the City. He expressed concern that families moving to the area may be more likely to move to surrounding townships that have lower taxes and do not permit medical marihuana. He expressed concern with the cash-based nature of the business and potential for crime. Mr. Earl concluded by asking City Council to start small and develop the program rather than starting large and trying to scale back.

Ms. Debra Linenger, 3089 Muirfield, shared that she voted in support of medical marihuana in Michigan. She shared that her father experienced severe pain and many hospitalizations and thus empathizes with people seeking medical marihuana for pain relief. She continued by stating that she assumed that medical marihuana would be administered by doctors and existing pharmacies – not special dispensaries. She expressed opposition to multiple dispensaries in the community and cited the City of Denver as a negative example of what can happen to a community if there are too many dispensaries. She expressed support for the existing pharmacy system as being the optimal venue by which medical marihuana should be provided. She referenced that federal, local and banking laws do not agree on how to handle the distribution of money associated with the enterprise and how it presents a likely target for criminal activity. She questioned why people are truly seeking medical marihuana and how many people are being turned down for medical marihuana prescriptions by the medical marihuana community. She stated that a vote in support of the ordinance is to bring marihuana into the community for personal pleasure, not medicinal.

Jevin Weyenberg, 5817 Cheshire, shared his belief that the provision of medical marihuana in the community is important to the future of Portage as it is a chance for better health for those in need. Mr. Weyenberg reviewed the importance of education on the benefits of medical marihuana and the obstacles that have been faced. He stated his appreciation for City Council reviewing the issue and stated that the proposed ordinances are restrictive and will not result in a multitude of dispensaries opening in the community. Mr. Weyenberg then reviewed the intensive and thorough nature of the application process.

Denise Pollicella of the law firm Pollicella & Associates, PLLC, shared that she was an individual who helped write the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA). She expressed gratitude that the City of Portage is taking the medical marihuana issue seriously and noted that she heard a lot of concerns expressed from members of the audience. Ms. Pollicella noted that the MMFLA did not impair the existing ability of residents to grow, process and use medical marihuana in their homes but rather provides a method for individuals who don't want to grow their own to obtain a safe product. Ms. Pollicella expressed optimism that fear and concern will dissipate over time as people find that their fears have not come to pass. She offered to host educational events for the public to help alleviate concerns in the community. She pointed out that the 1,000 foot buffer that has been discussed is mandated by State and Federal law.

Kim Willmont, 10028 Harris Drive, thanked City Council for their efforts and shared her belief that medical marihuana facilities will not be a blight in the community because of the limited number of available properties and restrictions in the proposed ordinances. Ms. Willmont encouraged City Council to allow facilities that receive their original license not to be punished if a church or day care locate nearby. With regard to grow facilities, she asked that the 1,000 foot buffer between such facilities be reconsidered.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to adjourn the public hearing to the March 13th Regular City Council Meeting. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

City Manager Shaffer reviewed changes that would be made based on the hearing this evening and said he would get City Council final proposed ordinances in advance of the next City Council Meeting. Councilmember Urban reviewed locations where religious institutions are principle permitted uses and encouraged City Administration to review related exemptions included in the proposed ordinance.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:

PURCHASE OF CRACK SEALING MATERIAL: Mayor Randall invited Councilmember Reid to speak on this item and Councilmember Reid questioned the "sole source" nature of this purchase. City Manager Shaffer referenced how this particular material is packaged, shipped and utilized by the work crews. He noted that this material is shipped in a much more environmentally friendly manner. Councilmember Reid questioned, despite the comments made by the City Manager, why the contract could not have been put out for bid as it is possible there are other environmentally conscious sources for the product. Councilmember Reid inquired as to the timeline should the contract be put out for bid. Director of Public Services Rod Russell reviewed the timeline and the delay it would cause in getting started on road repairs. Mr. Russell informed City Council that the City did obtain pricing from a variety of vendors and that the proposed company was the lowest and suited the needs of his department the best. Councilmember Reid asked that, in the future, such information be included in the information provided to City Council and that contracts such as this be brought forward earlier.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the purchase from Maxwell Products, Incorporated, of Salt Lake City, Utah, not to exceed $69,438.20 for 157,100 pounds of crack sealing material at $0.442 per pound to be used during the upcoming construction season and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PRELIMINARY PLAT OF WEST LAKE ESTATES: Mayor Randall invited Councilmember Reid to speak on this item and Councilmember Reid stated that she removed this item to get a better understanding of the proposed development as it relates to the wetland nature of the site. Mr. Forth of the Department of Community Development reviewed a drawing of the proposed development as it relates to the wetland area. Mr. Forth explained the contour of the property and where the houses will be located. Mr. Forth also identified a wetland area 1/6 of an acre in size that is proposed to be filled in and that a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is required to do so. Mr. Forth then highlighted efforts such as storm water basins in order to help address water issues on the property and Lakeview Drive in general. He then pointed out that some homes may not have basements or crawl spaces due to water concerns. Councilmember Reid inquired if the City can mandate certain construction techniques to help avoid future water issues that have occurred in areas such as Black Forest Drive. Mr. Forth stated that the design engineer for the proposed development is familiar with the circumstances on Black Forest and that steps will be taken by the developer and the City to help mitigate a similar occurrence for the proposed development. Councilmember Urban and Mr. Forth then reviewed the Black Forest development, questions that arose and that lessons have been learned.

Councilmember Knapp inquired what steps will be taken to preserve the wetlands. Mr. Forth stated that the existing wetlands, with the one noted exception, will be preserved as they can only be touched with permission from the MDEQ. With regard to preservation after the development is complete Mr. Forth noted that residents are prohibited from utilizing the property without permission from the MDEQ. Councilmember Knapp inquired how future homeowners will be notified that they must refrain from entering the wetland area.

Councilmember Knapp next inquired about the proposed intersection with Lakeview Drive and Portage Road. City Manager Shaffer reviewed the recent history of the intersection and proposed enhancements to improve safety at this location. Director of Transportation and Utilities Kendra Gwin reviewed safety enhancements, the inclusion of a pedestrian crossing to improve access to Lakeview Park and the $400,000 grant by the federal government in support of this project. Ms. Gwin noted that the land needed for the new intersection and design has been donated by the developer. Ms. Knapp expressed concern about the “road diet” and increased traffic and Director Gwin noted the size of the plat would result in minimal traffic impact and City Manager Shaffer noted that the proposed road diet and plan will be brought back to City Council for their review. Mayor Randall questioned the speed limit in this area and City Manager Shaffer noted the volume of traffic and acknowledged that traffic does move fast on this roadway and this matter would be reviewed as part of a traffic management plan and related road diet. In response to a question of Mayor Randall, Ms. Gwin and Mr. Shaffer noted that the design for this intersection had been in planning stages in advance of the developer offering to donate the needed land. Ms. Gwin continued by affirming that approval of the development is not contingent on donating the land nor vice versa.

Mayor Randall noted that some proposed homes are only feet from the wetlands. Ms. Gwin assured City Council that City Administration is more in tune with the need to review and monitor water levels when reviewing proposed developments. Bryan Wood, Allen Edwin Homes, 2186 E. Center Street, stated that wetlands are under the jurisdiction of the MDEQ and his company has been in extensive discussions with the MDEQ on the proposed development. Mr. Wood noted the contour of the property and other plans to address potential water issues on the property such as the management of storm water and not allowing basements on all of the homes. He concluded by stating that, to inform future homeowners, deed restrictions can be utilized and/or signs installed.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Preliminary Plat of West Lake Estates (9300 Portage Road) subject to the conditions outlined in the February 9, 2018 Department of Community Development staff report. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 9125 PORTAGE ROAD: Mayor Randall invited City Manager Shaffer to inform City Council that City Administration learned that Emily Drive was laid out as part of a plat and, as such, if the road is closed the underlying property is divided and reverts to the adjoining property owners. If the City of Portage is the owner of 9125 Portage Road, the City would receive 50% of Emily Drive. Mr. Shaffer continued by assuring City Council that the proposed Lift Station would be located such that the redevelopment potential of the property will be maximized. In response to a question from Councilmember Reid, Director of Transportation and Utilities Kendra Gwin noted that the exact location has not yet been determined as it is contingent upon items such as actually closing Emily Drive (which would require a resolution by City Council), the location of existing utilities, etc. Mr. Shaffer stated that, should the City acquire the property, the City would work with nearby property owners and involve them in the process of locating the lift station. In response to Ms. Reid, Mr. Shaffer stated that the results of the public information session would be brought back to City Council.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Urban, to approve the purchase of property addressed as 9125 Portage Road in the amount not to exceed $220,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Reid shared that she recently attended a meeting of the Environmental Health Advisory Council and that they discussed annual goals, efforts related to combating and studying the Zika virus, special collections by the Household Hazardous Waste Center and the need to be thinking about potential environmental issues that may arise from the medical marihuana industry.

Councilmember Knapp reported that she attended a meeting of the Kalamazoo Public Arts Commission and that they spent time discussing organization by-laws and the possibility of renaming the Commission the Kalamazoo County Public Arts Commission. She also stated that the Commission is looking for additional at-large members.

Councilmember Ford reported that he attended a meeting of Discover Kalamazoo and that the Gilmore Keyboard Fest presented upcoming artists. Mr. Ford stated that attendance at events from patrons residing outside of Southwest Michigan was discussed along with outreach efforts by Discover Kalamazoo.

Mayor Randall shared that she attended a meeting of the Public Media Network Board of Directors and that the Board is working on their by-laws. Legal counsel has been hired to help review procedures and address on-going concerns at Public Media Network and they are working on an Agreement to contract services with Kalamazoo County.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Andrea Stork, 1515 Dogwood, complimented City Council for having different opinions, raising issues, and discussing matters in public so the public can witness. Ms. Stork was especially pleased with the student participation in the meeting and that students were witness to discussion and debate at the local level. Ms. Stork closed by asking that City Council reconsider not reading the Consent Agenda into the record at the start of City Council Meetings.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Urban expressed discomfort at the temperature of Council Chambers and asked that efforts be made in the future to better control the climate in the room.

Councilmember Reid referenced the recent school shootings in Florida and efforts being undertaken to address mass violence. Ms. Reid was complimentary of the students who participated in the meeting and that they are getting involved in the gun violence discussion.

Councilmember Knapp shared that she participated in Mayor and City Council for the Day and expressed appreciation for the program and learning opportunity it presented.

Councilmember Burns thanked Mr. Tim Earl and City Staff for their contributions to the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan. He expressed his support for the Plan and encourage residents to review the document. Mr. Burns then challenged fellow Councilmembers to participate in an upcoming event designed to help fight homelessness in the community. Mr. Burns recognized the partnership between the Department of Public Safety and the Kalamazoo Community Mental Health Department.

Councilmember Ford stated that he enjoyed participating in the Mayor and City Council for the Day Program and that it was an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about local government and how to get involved.

Mayor Randall complimented the recent City event in honor of Black History Month, "The Witness." She expressed a goal that next year's event have twice the attendance. She continued by stating that the Air Zoo has been chosen by the Smithsonian Institution to be the permanent home of a display dedicated to the Tuskegee Airman. Mayor Randall shared that she had the honor of starting the recent "Portage Winter Blast" race and that the Department of Public Safety did an excellent job helping with the event. She concluded by discussing the Mayor and City Council for the Day event and by thanking Councilmembers who attended, sharing that the event resonated for her that change is happening at the local level and complimented City Manager Shaffer and staff for their work in making the experience rewarding and memorable for the students.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

____

Adam Herringa, City Clerk