

MILWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 01 - 28 - 2025

Location: IBEW Local 131 Building

Time: 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

The Annual Meeting of the Milwood Neighborhood Association (MNA) was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Board President.

2. Attendance

Ethan Seguin

Dave Buskirk

Scott Stokes

Michele Momotiuk

3. Agenda Items

A. Kalamazoo Airport Project Presentation

Speakers:

- **Craig Williams**, Director of the Kalamazoo Airport
- **Stephanie Ward**, Representative from Mead & Hunt

Craig Williams provided an overview of the current state of the airport, discussing the impact of COVID-19, ongoing projects, and future developments. Key highlights included:

- A 45% reduction in commercial airline operations post-COVID.
- Western Michigan University (WMU) being the highest user of the airport.
- The primary runways: 17/35 (main commercial use) and 05/23 (smaller planes and training aircrafts).
- Recent investments totaling \$19 million in snow removal equipment, fire trucks, and a new ramp on the south side.

- The airport is debt-free and operates independently from local funding.
- Plans to extend the south runway by 450 feet and the north by 150 feet, following FAA safety requirements.
- United Airlines may potentially return to the Kalamazoo Airport.

Stephanie Ward discussed environmental assessments and tree removal plans:

- Aerial laser mapping identified 55 parcels with obstructing trees, with 8 additional parcels under review.
- FAA regulations require that trees within 10 feet of airspace be removed or pruned, with property owners' consent.
- Homeowners were consulted, with over three-quarters accepting the easement offers.
- Trees will be removed in winter 2025, with replacements occurring in spring 2026.
- Mead & Hunt will oversee contractor communication with homeowners.
- Environmental concerns regarding endangered bats in Michigan were addressed.

For additional information, attendees were directed to visit the airport's website.

B. Board Accomplishments

The Board provided updates on recent accomplishments, including:

- Updated all State and Federal paperwork to maintain 501(c)(3) status
- Have a new Facebook page (Milwood Neighborhood Association of Kalamazoo, MI) and Website (<https://www.milwood-mi.org>)
- Approved By-Laws and took neighbor feedback online and in October meeting
- Created and modified per neighbor feedback, online and at October meeting, a Purpose, Mission Statement, and Vision Statement
- Participated in National Night Out with Threads Church and Greenwood Reformed
- Participated in One Well Block Party. Gave out information on Association and did face painting
- Participated in Trunk or Treat at Greenwood Elementary
- Participated in food drive at Milwood Elementary
- Involved in Imagine Kalamazoo 2035
- Met with Neighborhood Activator about reviving neighborhood plan
- A discussion on "How to Be a Happy City" by Charles Montgomery, with Michele sharing insights on the MNA Facebook page.

C. Board Nominations & Election

Nominee: Janet Jones

- Background: Extensive experience in psychology, education, nonprofit boards, and community-based projects.
- Former treasurer for the homeless millage initiative.
- Expertise in nonprofit management and collaborative community work.

Motion: Kathy nominated Janet Jones to join the Board. **Seconded:** Michele **Vote:** Unanimous approval

Janet Jones was officially elected as a Board member.

D. Community Priorities & Discussion

- Discussion on the allocation of funds for Milham Park improvements.
 - A representative from Parks and Recreation shared updates on upcoming projects, including the demolition of the bathroom within the next month.
 - Community members provided input on the top three priorities for the Board to address.
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E. Open Forum

Attendees were invited to share comments, concerns, and suggestions for the neighborhood.

4. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Ethan Seguin, Secretary

Next Meeting:

Date: 02 - 25 - 2025

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Kalamazoo Airport Board Room