Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2026

Present Qianna Decker, Dana DeLuca, Zach Ehmann (via Zoom), Valerie Leith, Jim Ratliff, Wilson Xu
Absent Steve Glista, Lynn Lupini, Craig Vaughan

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:48 pm by Wilson Xu, Board President.

Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda approved unanimously.

Approval of Previous Minutes (October 1, 2026)
Motion to approve October 1 meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Items for Discussion
Financial Report
In Craig's absence, the board reviewed the Treasurer's comparison of short-term investment and savings options. Members favored Consumers Credit Union because WHNA already banks there. They discussed retaining enough accessible cash for the WH Neighborhood gateway sign balance and other expenses, including National Night Out. **Motion** made by Qianna Decker to open a six-month certificate of deposit for $5,000 and a liquid savings account with an initial deposit of $2,500, both at Consumers Credit Union. Motion was seconded by Jim Ratliff and approved without opposition.

Board Member Recruitment
Wilson clarified that two seats are open for election. Board members were asked to contact neighbors in their networks and encourage interested residents to complete the Board Interest Form online. Members reported various conversations with prospective candidates.
The form is available under the Board tab on the WHNA website. Applicants can download it, complete and save the PDF, and email it to Wilson. Members discussed accepting answers by email if the PDF is difficult to complete.

Board Terms and Staggered Elections
Discussion of proposed bylaw amendments concerning board terms was deferred to the next meeting so Steve could explain the proposal and answer questions.

Westnedge Hill and West Main Hill Neighborhood IK2035 Conversation
In response to Cee Maul's request, the board agreed to pursue a joint planning workshop with West Main Hill Neighborhood Association. The proposed three-hour working session would bring invited participants together to review each neighborhood's planning work and identify what should carry forward into Imagine Kalamazoo 2035. Valerie will confirm interest, request possible dates, and report back to the board. The planning committee discussed reviewing the current draft and bringing feedback from the Midtown sessions and National Night Out. The committee still needs to gather and compile the National Night Out materials.

Annual Meeting Vision Plan
This discussion was deferred to the next meeting when the full Board is in attendance.

New Business

Neighborhood Decorating Award
Board members expressed interest in exploring a decorating contest, with the winter holidays discussed as a possibility. Ideas included inviting residents to submit photos, offering award categories, holding voting on social media, and recognizing winners with a certificate or small trophy. Dana and Valerie agreed to collaborate on the development of the idea.

Gateway Signage Project
Dana reported that SignWriter stated the city raised a right-of-way concern about the original placement of the sign on Westnedge Hill. Dana consulted Wilson and Jim and met with the installer, who flagged an alternate location angled toward Westnedge Avenue. Permit approval and the installation date were pending. Sign Writer reported that the posts had been powder-coated, the dimensional letters were in, and the remaining graphics were being added on October 29.

Little Free Library
Wilson will continue building the Little Free Library while the board looks for someone to pour the small concrete slab. He will share the slab dimensions with Qianna, who offered to help find a contractor. Members also discussed reviewing color options.

Other
Dana reported contacting Community Policing Officer, Hunter Bagley, about a tent at Crane Park and residents' reports of crime involving property incidents. Officer Bagley indicated that the Community Service Team would follow up on the tent and that he would request additional night patrols as calls for service allow. Board members encouraged each other to report incidents directly.

Members noted that the road section between Glenwood and Inkster had been paved following reports to the city. They also discussed reporting leaf piles that remain after scheduled collection.

The Kalamazoo Environmental Network (KEN) was suggested for a future WHNA newsletter. The online network and its newsletter help residents and organizations connect and share information on local environmental topics. Jim will submit an article about KEN for the next WHNA e-newsletter.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. by Wilson Xu, President.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3 at 5:45 pm at the YMCA on Maple Street.

Minutes provided by Dana DeLuca, Secretary