

Akron Documenters

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Ward 5

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Summary

- There have been multiple 311 requests about ongoing issues in East Akron, such as high grass near stop signs and a broken backhoe that's been left on McKinley Avenue for two years. Ward 5 Council Member Johnnie Hannah has been asking the city to fix these issues and continues to follow up on them.
- By His Grace Grandparents Community is a support group for people raising their grandchildren. The group meets monthly at the [Maple Valley Branch Library](#) and the next meeting is May 29 at 5:30 p.m. Founder Shontay Dawley is looking to have another site on Akron's east side and is working to establish services such as adult tutor support and emergency food resources.
- [The City of Akron is redesigning its logo](#) and is currently [collecting feedback](#) about what residents would like to see in the new design.

Follow-Up Questions

- Why has the city not removed the backhoe on McKinley Avenue?
- How many grandparents in Akron are raising their grandchildren?

- How does the Akron-Summit County Public Library decide where to open or close branches, and how often do they make these decisions?

Notes

- Food was provided at the beginning of the meeting. Approximately 20 people were in attendance.
- [Ward 5 Council Member Johnnie Hannah](#) started the meeting at 6:20 p.m.
- Hannah started with a discussion of some items from the last ward meeting as well as some announcements and concerns.
 - At last month's meeting, a staff member of the [311 department](#) spoke about 311 requests. Hannah mentioned two complaints from last month's meeting that have been resolved: the length of time of the traffic light at South Arlington Street and 5th Avenue in East Akron has been changed, and a camper parked at the corner of South Arlington Street and 1st Street in East Akron has since been removed.
 - Hannah has been working with a resident who lives next to two abandoned homes. She has experienced issues with people squatting in both of the homes, and despite the city boarding up the buildings, people are still going inside them. There was some discussion of the process of the city razing the houses.
 - A backhoe that's been abandoned on McKinley Avenue in East Akron for more than two years was mentioned at last month's meeting. Hannah spoke to [Director of Public Service Chris Ludle](#) about it and found out that it's not working, which is why it's been left. The city will need to dismantle it and haul it away, which is costly.
 - Hannah said the [Akron Fraternal Order of Police is currently in contract negotiations with the city.](#)
 - A resident mentioned high grass around Chittenden, Milton and Delos streets in East Akron where the grass blocks the stop sign at an intersection. She has called 311 and the grass still has not been mowed.
- Shontay Dawley spoke about By His Grace Grandparents Community, a support group she created for people raising their grandchildren. It is a confidential, faith-based group that meets the last Friday of the month at the [Maple Valley Branch Library](#). The next meeting is May 29 at 5:30 p.m.. She would like to have another site on the east side of Akron and is working to establish services such as adult tutor support and emergency food resources.
- A Ward 5 resident spoke about a current [petition to make Senate Bill 1 \(SB 1\) a statewide referendum](#). If the petition obtains enough valid signatures by June 25,

Ohio voters will vote on whether SB 1 will go into effect. She briefly [explained SB 1](#) and offered attendees the opportunity to sign the petition.

- Hannah mentioned the Dancing in the Park event at Morgan Park on June 28.
- City of Akron Cultural Engagement Coordinator Summer Hall spoke about the city's logo redesign process and encouraged attendees to complete the [survey](#).
- Hall also spoke about a few other programs she oversees:
 - Centenarian program: Akron residents turning 100 can contact the city to be celebrated. Residents turning 80, 85, 90 or 95 may also be celebrated.
 - Tumble Together: The city offers free laundromat services, detergent and a meal at a popup event at a local laundromat. The next one will be on May 20 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Super Clean Laundromat in Chapel Hill.
 - Community Connections: City cabinet members attend public events or go to public places to answer questions from community members.
- Arell Tee from Habitat for Humanity of Summit County said the organization is offering free safety kits, which include a smoke and carbon monoxide detector and gun and medicine cabinet locks, to residents who live near [Joy Park](#) in East Akron. Interested residents can apply to receive one.
- There was some discussion about East Akron no longer having a library branch. (The Chamberlin branch closed years ago and the Firestone Park branch opened.)
- A staff member from [Mobile Services of the Akron-Summit County Public Library](#) (ACSPL) spoke about the services they offer to residents in the ACSPL's service area, including the [Bookmobile](#) and [Library Express Delivery Service](#). The delivery service allows patrons with difficulty getting to the library due to illness or disability to receive library materials from ACSPL via the mail for free.
- The meeting ended at 7:34 p.m. The Bookmobile was outside, and attendees were invited to tour it and check out materials.