

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday January 18, 2012

Place: Winchell Elementary Library

Board Members-

Present: Barb McCrea, Co-President; Peter Kushner, Secretary; Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer, Tom Keyser, Pat Klein, Deb Klug

Excused: Larry Ross, Co-President, Chris Shook, Cindy Shook



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, Secretary 7:00pm
- II. **Secretary's Report**
 - We now have 364 eNews subscribers
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Association account balance stands at \$1,092.52
 - A request was made for members to stay current in their dues or, if not a member, to consider joining. Funds are used to: maintain our website, pay for the eNews email software, P.O. box, marketing/PR
- IV. **Ad Hoc Traffic Committee Report, Tom Keyser, Chair**
 - A number of important traffic issues exist in the neighborhood, however, the committee can only work on one at a time and the issue of making Winchell Ave. Rambling Rd. intersection an all-way stop is what is currently being addressed.
 - The committee developed, and the board approved, a petition to be presented to the City that brings this issue (and our concerns about the lack of an all-way stop there) to their attention and our desire for them to act upon it. Tom asked for volunteers to contact him after the meeting to help in gathering signatures throughout the association boundaries.
- V. **Guest Speakers:** John Paquin, Water Resources Manager and Barry Boekeloo, Water Supplies Supervisor, City of Kalamazoo. Topic: Our Water Supply and Quality Issues
 - Background: John's areas focus includes environmental aspects, supply protection, contamination issues and ID problems/potential problems. Barry oversees the operational "troubleshooting" aspects of the system.
 - Our water supply: 2nd largest groundwater-based system in MI; limited treatment is needed (iron treatment & fluoride added); 123,000 people served (City and some of the county-other municipalities have/can "buy into" the system ; 20M gal/day pumped; system designed to pump 65M gal.;17 wellfields, 16 pump stations, 8 storage facilities (15 M gal.)
 - Biggest challenges:
 - Keeping water pressure satisfactory (goal-60psi = 20gal/min.) especially on peak days and as the system expands geographically
 - Rusty/muddy water (mostly due to main breaks, hydrant flushing maintenance, public works use via hydrants as well as high concentration naturally occurring in the supply
 - Our neighborhood: mainly served by Pump Station 12 at Rambling Rd./Stadium Dr.
 - System is all interconnected; 1-2 pumps are replaced/year to stay current (Sta. 12 scheduled for 2012)
 - How our water supply is protected: Wellhead Protection Program (offshoot of 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act)
 - Areas around wellheads are protected that water can reach via migration within 10 years.
 - Zoning ordinances
 - Site plan reviews
 - Water quality information:
 - "Hardness"- not treated for, need a home water softener, our supply has a naturally high hardness
 - Iron-naturally occurring vs. in lake/river water. Not currently treated for but sodium hexametaphosphate added to keep iron "in solution." A 2000 study determined that our water costs would have to rise by 25% to treat for iron.
 - Fluoride – naturally occurring in our water to .12-.17/mg/L; City adds fluoride to bring up to .7-1.2mg/L
 - Arsenic-naturally occurs in our water. Max. allowed = 10ug/L; ours at 8ug/L; no treatment ongoing or warranted. Treating for done every 4 years.
 - Other issues: odors ("rotten egg") 99% of the time, coming from your water heater. Chlorine smell-City uses 1 part/M; tests level daily.
 - How we can help protect our water supply: report suspicious activity, plug abandoned/unused private wells (conduits to supply), install vacuum boosters to prevent backflow, dispose of hazardous liquids properly, conserve.
 - Check out: www.ProtectYourWater.net for further information.

VI. **Old Business:** Ad hoc Traffic Committee (see above)

VII. **New Business:** None

VIII. **Public Comments:** None

IX. **Adjournment:** 8:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Kushner, ODWNA Secretary