

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014

Place: Winchell Elementary Library

Board Members:

Present:; Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer, Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; Tom Keyser, Becky Mutsaers, Barb Ross, Kathy Shook.

Absent: n/a



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm
 - o Welcome
- II. **Secretary's Report**
 - Next meeting:
 - o 7:00 pm on Feb. 19: Preserve and Maintain your Older Home, Sharon Ferraro, Preservation Coordinator, City of Kalamazoo
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Thanks to several people paying their dues last month, we are in relatively good shape to make it through the remainder of this year with just over \$1,000 in the account.
 - What the dues pay for:
 - o Postcards (mailing, printing, postage) to announce neighborhood meeting dates and speakers
 - o Signs for events such as the Car Show and Garage Sale
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - Pete mentioned that Digital Billboard was approved for the top of Olde Peninsula.
 - We have been contacted regarding supporting the proposals for bike lanes, information on website. The Parkview and Oakland intersection was approved for widening, "sharrows" are to be added (shared bike/auto lane).
- V. **New Business:**
 - None
- VI. **Public Comments (after the speaker):**
 - Cheryl Barea, a Sycamore Lane Resident, brought a petition for those who wanted to sign it to protest the laws allowing wolf hunting. It is a game sport, people don't eat wolves. We are not overrun by wolves. They are also at Pet Supplies Plus (both Westnedge and Gull Road locations) on the weekends.

Notes from our Speaker:

- Guest Speakers: Pam DeCuypere, Circle D Wildlife Refuge
- Topic: Co-Existing with Wild Animals in Urban Settings
- Website: www.circledwildlife.org

The Circle D Wildlife Refuge has about 20 acres outside of Vicksburg and they are surrounded by family. They would like more space. They have several outbuildings, as some of the animals cannot be mixed with others. They feed 175 – 200 animals per day, but some of those are mallards, ducks and other birds at a pond on the property. The feed costs about \$40,000 per year. They are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. They have 2 fawns, 7 raccoons, 5 fox (including 1 arctic fox that someone bought as a pet and then decided they didn't want), 2 swans, a possum, some dogs and a goat – about 75 sanctuary animals. Pam is the main animal caretaker. They can always use help with various computer work and with fund raising. They have vets on call, and are largely supported by donations. Jeff DeCuypere is certified in chemical immobilization in case they need to immobilize an animal for transport and/or treatment.

They get called by the County, private citizens and other various organizations when wild animals have been injured or need rescued. Some have been hit by cars, some have been injured by hunters, one of the fox was attacked by dogs and chewed off its own back leg and had to have its tail removed due to nerve pain, in other cases the mother disappeared.

There is a lot of information on their website about whether or not to touch a wild animal, and how. Often with smaller young animals such as raccoons and possum, you can throw a towel on them and they will cling to it out of fear, then throw another towel over them and you can carefully pick up the 2 towels and move them. With fawn, you should always wait at least 24 hours as the mother is likely nearby or will be back. The 3 diseases you have to worry about most are distemper, canine parvovirus (parvo) and mange. They isolate all animals for 2 weeks to make sure they are not ill before letting them mix with existing animals. It's a good idea to learn to recognize the signs of these diseases. You can put invermec in water and set it out to treat mange in squirrels – it won't hurt anything and is safe for pets as well.

Questions were posed about deer handling the cold winter weather, and Pam explained how their fur seems designed to protect them against the cold. Also, deer body temperature runs warmer than ours, at 102 degrees. Deer eat about 4 pounds a day, and in the winter are very partial to corn, because corn is basically nitrogen, which produces fuel and heat. They also like sunflower seeds.

To keep deer off your flowers and other ornamental plants, there are a few products you can use, such as Repelzall, sold by Wedel's. For vegetables, you would either have to spray that around them, or spray your vegetables with a hot pepper mixture.

Pam brought a lot of pictures, some cute, some touching, some sad, but the pictures told the story better than the words – the work they do at this sanctuary saves a lot of these animals from what would otherwise be a painful or tortuous existence or death.

VII. **Adjournment:** 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted;
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary