

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Place: Winchell Elementary Library

Board Members:

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

Absent: Katherine Shook

In Attendance: Approximately 34 people (includes Board members)



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm
 - Due to a scheduling conflict, we switched our February & March speakers: Next month our speaker is Peter Gistelink, CEO of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
 - Board elections are coming up in May for all dues paying members to vote on. We have at least one opening, if you are at all interested in serving on the board, please go to our web page and there is a link to board member information and an “application”.
 - There is a BTR2 Colony Orchard Meeting Wednesday, March 2 from 6:00 – 7:30 at the Oshtemo Township Hall on W. Main.
- II. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - We have enough to cover the budget for the year and an extra roughly \$250.00. Postcards are the largest cost to our budget. Banners for our neighborhood to post on each end of Oakland Drive welcoming people to our neighborhood were suggested by a member of the neighborhood, with the thought of raising awareness that this is a neighborhood they are driving through when they drive down Oakland Drive.
 - Imagine Kalamazoo 2025. 2 different surveys passed out, both get returned to the city. Kalamazoo College students involved with assisting with the multi-page survey. You may also drop those off to Diana instead of mailing to the city if you prefer.
- III. **Secretary’s Report**
 - Extra postcards available, sign-in sheet going around
- IV. **Neighborhood Business (Old and New):**
 - No new business
- V. **Public Comments:**
 - None

Notes from our Speakers:

Guest Speakers: Norm Carver, Architect, Author, Photographer

Topic: Norm Carver Homes in Kalamazoo and Around the World

- Norm lived in Kalamazoo a good portion of his life, and much of it was spent living in the Winchell Neighborhood, including living on Waite and on Parkview in his youth.
- He used to ride his horse to school from his childhood home on Parkview, there was a stable at what is now Kalamazoo Christian where you would leave your horse for the day while you attended school up the hill on Winchell.
- As a teen, Norm worked for Architect Bill Stone.
- Norm then went to Yale Architectural School, where he saw many new types of buildings during his first year.
- The Army then sent Norm to Japan, where he saw yet more architecture.
- Norm produced 2 books on Japanese Architecture, then went on to publish 5 more books on architecture from around the world. See Norm’s website for a sampling of photography plus the names of the books are listed at the top of the page (*Secretary’s Note: I found this, Norm did not “advertise” it, but did mention that he has a gallery downtown*): <http://www.normancarver.com/>
- Norm designed about 150 houses, presentation included a slide show:
 - In Kalamazoo, Norm designed houses in Winchell neighborhood, on Memory Lane, in Oshtemo, on Gull Lake and in Comstock.
 - In Winchell, this includes houses in Parkwyn, on Frederick, on Sheffield, on Aberdeen and on Rambling.
 - Many houses along the Lake Michigan shore
 - Oakland, near Detroit

- Ohio
- California
- On the East Coast
- Florida
- Japan (a Tennis Stadium and a house)
- Seoul (including the old US Embassy)
- Never used “Interior Desecrators”, but did design homes that people could bring their stuff into, and there would be places for their stuff without their stuff taking over the house. It would still look well designed.

VI. **Adjournment:** 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary