

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Place: Winchell Elementary Library

Board Members:

Present:; Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; Barb Ross, Kathy Shook, Paul Scott

Absent: Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer; Tom Keyser, Becky Mutsaers



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm
 - Neighborhood Garage Sales are the last Saturday in April. The board has purchased signs they will be putting up.
 - This time of year potholes can be an issue. You can call the city to report these at #337-8731 or there is an online form you can fill out (for potholes, street lights, etc.) accessible from our website (“Report It”)
 - Our annual car show is coming up on May 20. We started this as a way to get people to come out and meet each other and socialize. Paul Scott is helping Tom Keyser organize this. Paul reported that this year we will have a Duesenberg at the show and showed us a picture of the dual windshield car. We will also be allowing vintage and classic motorcycles to participate. We will have a pizza food truck present from Camzie’s Pizza selling pizza and beverages.
- II. **Secretary’s Report**
 - Next meeting is April 15th and Jim Ferner from the Complete Streets Coalition will be here to speak.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - Pete reported on Diana’s behalf that our current balance is approximately \$1300, with around \$1100 budgeted to be spent for the remainder of 2015.
- IV. **Neighborhood Business (Old and New):**
 - None
- V. **Public Comments:**
 - Rob Bauckham, Assistant City Planner, spoke to us about a plan to establish an ordinance to regulate stadium lighting in the city. He brought handouts with a timeline for the process as well as soliciting public input. We will try to have him back in September, which will be the last possible date for input.
 - Rebekah Kik, Assistant City Planner, spoke to us about www.imaginekalamazoo.com which is a city collaboration website. You can sign up with your email and receive updates. You can show the city how you would prioritize spending in the city budget.

Notes from our Speaker:

Guest Speakers: Nelson Breech Nave, AIA Architect

Topic: Kalamazoo Architecture

Nelson brought before and after pictures of many Kalamazoo area buildings (and one beauty of a house in Ann Arbor) that he has worked on. A listing of these buildings is below.

When you choose to restore an old building, you typically save 15–30% over building new, because you have a foundation, partial walls, a partial roof, at least.

- Memories Wedding Shop (Downtown)
- Bell’s: Building was made of brick and steel beams in the 1890-1910 range. This sounds expensive now, but was actually very cheaply constructed industrial construction and takes a lot more to restore than it would to say, restore a house from the same era.
 - Music Bar
 - Restaurant
 - Exterior retail shop
- Ladies Library: they found the original architectural drawings on linen. Had a lot of challenges with places to park and places to put equipment while working on this building.
- Worked on 2 historic homes in Ann Arbor. Talked to us a little about the restrictions on changing the looks of things in historic districts.
- Nelson’s office is in the Edwards Street Antique Mall Buildings, which he has of course worked on.
- The Storage Building (behind Food Dance).
- Smitty’s Mule House (next to Old Dog Tavern). May eventually become another tavern.

- Visiting Nurses Building, now Reverence, at Kalamazoo and Burdick. There was an old Civil War group that used to meet there, he recovered a lot of Civil War relics while working here. This (beautiful) building has 2 or 3 colors of brick, which is unusual for this area, but there are several buildings like this in Dorr.
- The building next to where Sarkozy's Bakery was has two apartments in it which he worked on.
- From Rose and Kalamazoo down to the Rickman House – he worked on that whole block/strip of buildings. The Rickman House was originally a hotel for the Railroad.
- Nord Jewelers
- Rustica
- There was an Oriental Restaurant on the Kalamazoo Mall, more recently was the Cupcake Zoo, there are condos upstairs, he designed drawings for an Irish Pub, but it hasn't happened.
- A1 Printing on Michigan Avenue
- King Scott Architect Building where Folio Hair Studio is on Michigan Avenue: He used to work with King Scott, and worked on this building while working for them. There are cast iron cauldrons that say Kalamazoo that are part of this building, they were forged here.
- Louis Sullivan Building (first employer of Frank Lloyd Wright).
- Hiemstra's Optical and Green Top Building on Michigan Avenue (built in 1869).
- Coney Island Building
- Bimbo's Pizza (and the old Club Soda) Building
- Food Dance, owned by John Stryker. The buildings that make up Food Dance are from 1878 and 1910. They had to use diagonal supports to reinforce the upper floors – you can see these in the restaurant. Sandstone from northern Michigan had been used on the exterior of the building, and it was found not to be long lasting, it would fall right off if they even touched it with a hammer or other tool, so they imported stone from Scotland to try to match the looks of it. There is lots of aluminum and LED lighting in this building. The budget for lighting alone in this building was \$800,000.

VI. **Adjournment:** 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary