

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Place: Winchell Elementary Library

Board Members:

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

Absent: Chris Shook, Vice President



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm
 - o Welcome
 - o Introduction of Board Members
 - o Trying new format this year:
 - 6:30 – 7:00pm Library will be open, at least a few board members will be present, opportunity for time to meet your neighbors and socialize
 - 7:00 – 7:20pm Neighborhood Business and Concerns
 - 7:20pm Speaker
- II. **Secretary's Report**
 - Sign-in sheet going around, this helps us keep track of attendance at meetings plus gives you an opportunity to sign-up for eNews if you haven't already signed up for it and wish to receive news by email.
 - Extra postcards are available tonight if you didn't receive one in the mail, please feel free to come and get one.
 - Next meeting is October 15th and Mark Hoffman will be speaking to us about the Pioneer Days of Asylum Lake.
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Fiscal year runs Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.
 - Money that we collect largely goes to mailing the postcards (roughly \$700) and to the signs for things like the Neighborhood Meetings and the Car Show.
 - Detailed ODWNA financial information is available anytime upon request to the Treasurer
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - **Woods Lake Park Update from Becky:** The budget for the improvements was not large enough to accommodate the bids received to accommodate the plans. They now have to reapply for grants, scale back the plans and if the plans and bids can meet in the middle, construction may start by April 1 of next year. In the meantime, the gate has been open and people are using the park, despite the fact that the bathrooms are closed and the Parks and Recreation Department states that the park is closed. They said they would look into why the gates are not being closed and get that issue corrected.
 - **Oakland Drive/Parkview Intersection update from Pete** – the work may be complete by Thanksgiving.
 - **MDOT is having an opportunity for public input on a "Stadium Drive & Michigan Avenue Corridor Study"** along with other public events Sept. 30 – Oct. 3. The first public input session is Sept. 30 from 4:30 – 6:30pm at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. There are also "public drop in hours" on Oct. 1 at the Radisson from 8:00 – 9:00 am, noon – 1:00 pm and 7:00 – 8:00 pm. There are other events, such as bike rides and pub crawls, see attached for more information.
- V. **New Business:**
 - **Asylum Lake Management Council** was previously looking for people to serve on the council. Our newest board member Paul Scott has taken on the responsibility of representing us by serving on this council. He attended a meeting and is getting up to speed. For information on the Management Council, you can go to the WMU website and search on Asylum Lake and the link to the Asylum Lake Preservation Web Site will come up, and that page has a link to the Asylum Lake Management Council.
- VI. **Public Comments:**
 - There is a little boy in our neighborhood who has leukemia, and Bronson Hospital has done all they can for him. The next step is to send him to trials out west. September 26 Winchell Elementary School has a fundraiser and the kids are running. There is an opportunity at this fundraiser to designate part or all of your contributions to the fund to support the boy and his family so that they can continue trying to find a way to treat him. We will look into a link to the fundraiser web site.

VII. **Notes from our Speaker:**

Guest Speaker: Nick Schirripa, MDOT Representative

Topic: US 131 Overpass and Q and A

Note: These notes are a compilation of what Nick spoke about and the Q & A:

131 & Stadium Drive: Nick spoke in detail about what has taken place so far and future plans for the 131 and Stadium Drive overpass. Next summer, the bridge will be down to one lane each way. The on ramps and bridge are being worked on, and the end result will be similar to the I-94 and Westnedge bridge/overpass. The bridge will be replaced. This project was delayed one year due to a steel shortage. The bridge will be wide enough to accommodate 131 being a six lane freeway if it ever grows to that point.

Rambling & Stadium: The local MDOT personnel are aware that locally, people would like to see this intersection changed. Their job is to convince Lansing, and they don't like "going up against" Lansing. They are also bound to follow the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD). The last traffic study at this intersection was in 2011. Changes are based on volume, crash history and a number of other similar criteria. One incident won't change anything. While residents find this intersection confusing, it should be treated as a 4-way intersection, not a 3-way intersection. The Car Dealership pays for ¼ of the utilities, etc. to support the light. Several people expressed that they felt a left turn signal for those coming from downtown and trying to turn left onto Rambling would be helpful, and that they fear for their life when trying to turn left there. Nick suggested that Pete write on behalf of the Neighborhood and request a new study. They would then be happy to have someone come and present the results of the study to us and talk about potential for changes.

It was pointed out that there was a hedge at that same intersection blocking the view when leaving Gale's True Value to turn onto Stadium. Nick will look into that and see if it is MDOT's responsibility or the property owner's and see if they can take care of it.

The drains on Stadium Drive were replaced with bigger pipes.

The new stop light on Drake near Stadium was influenced by the Developer for Costco and was installed based on safety concerns. Trucks will be entering Costco off of Michigan Avenue.

If a bridge is unsafe, MDOT shuts it down. They try to take care of problems in advance as much as possible, but are restricted by budgets and have to prioritize and plan according to need. A couple of terms that may help to understand the meaning of in relation to the conditions of things like bridges:

- Functionally Obsolete: If they were building the same structure today, they would not build it the same way.
- Structurally Deficient: Needs repaired in some way. This could be very minor or it could be major. Unless you know the details of what needs repaired and why, it doesn't mean a lot.

I-94 Widening: To consider widening all of I-94 from Port Huron to Chicago would be a monumental challenge in terms of re-routing traffic, costs, etc. There are 3 proposals to widen I-94 between Lovers Land and Sprinkle. To put this in perspective, the I-94 & Westnedge project took 2 years and \$45 million.

There is a large project planned for next summer to rebuild I-94 & Sprinkle. They are putting two roundabouts in.

Speed limits are not determined by MDOT. A state trooper sits in an unmarked car with radar and ticks off how fast people are traveling on a chart. The speed limit is set at the 85th percentile. The assumption is that most people will drive at safe speeds.

There was some discussion on cable guard rails. Nick stated that they actually cause fewer fatalities and dismemberments and those on the medians are designed to keep people from going into oncoming traffic.

VIII. **Adjournment:** 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary