

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013

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, Kathy Shook.

Absent: Becky Mutsaers



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:05 pm
 - o Welcome, thank you for the great turnout. (If I counted correctly, we had 55 people in attendance).

- II. **Secretary's Report**
 - Halloween is observed on Halloween in Kalamazoo, but there is also a community "Safe Halloween" Oct 26, 2013 11 am to 1:00 PM North Kalamazoo Mall, Between Water and Eleanor Streets. This is a day-time and free alternative to trick-or-treating, which offers families a safe way to celebrate Halloween in downtown Kalamazoo. Your little boos will enjoy candy, hands-on arts and crafts, entertainment, a costume parade
 - Attendance sheet passed around at every meeting, helps us keep track of how many people attended. Also, a spot to add your email address if you want to receive our monthly eNews and are not already receiving it.
 - Meeting minutes from every neighborhood meeting are posted to the website.
 - Next meeting:
 - o 7:00 pm on Nov. 20: SPCA of SW Michigan, Katie Meskil, Community Outreach

- III. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Fiscal year starts now, so if you are a dues paying member, it is likely time to pay your dues unless you are already paid for multiple years. If you are unsure if yours are now due, please contact Diana or email the board or contact via the website and we will check and let you know.
 - 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
 - o Ad for the Neighborhood Garage Sale that occurs each year in the spring/summer
 - o Website
 - o Email software for the eNews
 - Discussed balance and how we are doing financially

- IV. **Old Business:**
 - None

- V. **New Business:**
 - None

- VI. **Public Comments:**
 - None

Notes from our Speaker:

Guest Speakers: Dr. David Brose, Brose & Brose Consulting

Topic: Archaeological History of Winchell

David Brose did a great job with his presentation, which included many slides of historical maps and pictures. These notes are a VERY abbreviated version of bullet points captured of random points of his presentation.

- Pre-Ice Age, this area at one time looked much like the Caribbean.
- A great resource of topology is Google Earth on the web, where you can go to the "Roads and Terrain" view.
- One of the best preserved areas in our neighborhood is the Kleinstuck Preserve; at one time our area had many large animals, including the great Mastodon; it would not be surprising if there were bones of Mastodons buried in the Preserve.



- Researchers can tell by tools, indications of trails, etc. how people moved during that age, and it was apparent that in this region, people were moving North to South.
- Eventually all of the large animals disappeared, and that could be attributed to climate change or it could be from people over-hunting them, we really don't know. Many tools that were used for hunting and cooking were found from that era.
- As the climate again changed again, there were signs of people adapting to the climate change. People from different areas started interbreeding, and this is evidenced by tools, by evidence of replanting of non-native plants, by the trading of gifts and resources.
- There are burial mounds, throughout the Midwest and the Plains; Ohio Valley has a lot of earthen buildups that honor the astrological phenomenon.
- Some mounds contained both bones and tools, indicating they buried some items with people
- There were mounds along the Grand River in Grand Rapids, down near St. Joseph, and well-known locally was the mound in Bronson Park. The mound in Bronson Park was dug up in the 1950's, and a time capsule is now buried there from the 1950's. This time capsule is supposed to be dug up in 2050. It will be important when they redo the Bronson Fountain in the future that they maintain an archeological consciousness as they redo it because even though nothing was found in the mound when they dug it up in the 1950's, the technologies and methodologies have advanced a great deal since then, and we may still be able to learn from what is there. (We have a presentation in March on the Bronson Park Fountain).
- Most of Michigan was very swampy when it was first settled, and in 1200 – 1400 AD, people started growing crops on raised beds and this was important because it extended the crops for another 10 to 13 days. Kalamazoo and Vicksburg have a lot of these raised beds, much more so than other areas.
- The Huron Tribe of Indians and Samuel Champlain's men (Champlain was a Frenchman known for mapping Canada and the Great Lakes) joined forces and attacked the Iroquois. The next 50 years the French couldn't take a direct route from Michigan to New York, but had to take a northern route instead to avoid retaliatory attacks by the Iroquois.
- In 1805 the State of Michigan starts getting divided up and sold off. Every 6 mile block had 1 mile square sections.
- There is a map of the area from 1827 that they are working on superimposing over the current map.
- The Winchell neighborhood was a Potawatomi Indian reservation. Whites Road and Patterson were both ON the reservation lines.
- In 1880 the land in our area started to be sold by the state. The area south of Parkview was being developed. Spruce and Waite and Benjamin were developed as streets before Howard.
- For 90 years, the state held and sold off the Potawatomi Reservation. In the end, the Potawatomi's got a Casino out of the "deal".
- Prior to paved roads, the roads often moved each year due to tree's falling, roads washing away, etc.
- There are signs in this area during development of people making Spruce Beer and Skunk stew.
- A few million years ago, we were closer to the equator.
- Currently, the Ice caps are melting and the Arctic Ocean is opening up. Historically, changes to our climate tend to happen slowly, slowly, slowly and then all of a sudden things accumulate and BAM, something big happens.

VII. **Adjournment:** 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary