

ODWNA Association Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Place: Held virtually (via Zoom)

Board Members:

Present: Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Christopher Bovid, Secretary; Kathy Shook, Treasurer; Diana Morton-Thompson; Eric Boersma

In Attendance: Approximately 26 people (includes Board members)



I. Call to Order: Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm

- Welcome
- Basics of ODWNA Zoom meeting process/conduct
- Website URL reminder, website purpose, Neighborhood Plan
- Winchell Neighborhood Facebook page information (not administered by ODWNA)
- ODWNA annual postcard mailing information
- Board meeting schedule and full ODWNA meeting schedule
- Introduction of Board members
- ODWNA eNews overview
- Neighborhood Updates:
 - Oakland Drive construction project – still on track for completion by early October
 - Narrowing driving lanes so can widen bicycle paths on either side
 - Neighborhood Plan called for more ways to connect to neighborhood businesses and other areas of City
 - I. Crosswalk to be added at South side of Oakland Drive where Chevy Chase crosses
 - II. Upgrade of crosswalk (with pedestrian island) where Maple Street meets Oakland Drive
 - Neighborhood Plan
 - Approved by the City Commission in June 2020
 - Is now part of the City's Master Plan
 - THANK YOU to all committee chairs and members who participated
 - ODWNA is now beginning to organize work committees to pursue Neighborhood Plan initiatives
 - Safe Routes To School Grant
 - Grant comes from the State of Michigan
 - \$200,000 for both Winchell Elementary and Maple Street Middle School
 - Bulk of the money goes for infrastructure improvements
 - City of Kalamazoo puts grant application together and submits to the State of Michigan
 - Overview of ODWNA work
 - Target date of June 2021 to finish application
 - Trying to tie in safety initiatives from ODWNA Neighborhood Plan
 - "Quick Win" Project options from Neighborhood Plan being pursued with the City
 - Update on Glen Park "pump track" initiative
 - ODWNA Board of Directors is still waiting on answers from the City of Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation Advisory Board ("PRAB") and Sean Fletcher (Director of City Parks & Recreation) to written inquiries and concerns about the Glen Park project previously submitted from the Board and community members at large
 - Treasury information
 - Fiscal year starts September 1
 - Automatic ODWNA membership within regional boundaries
 - Dues voluntary, due by October 1 but will be happily accepted at any time
 - \$20 per year per household
 - Every household gets 2 votes if dues paid
- Q&A on President's Report:
 - Paul Teini introduced himself as member of the PRAB. He says PRAB is still drafting its reply letter to the inquiries from the neighborhood about the proposed Glen Park project. He says there have not been many meetings held by PRAB due to COVID-19 but hopefully there will be a completed draft of the reply letter ready for review by PRAB at its October meeting. P. Teini asks how the ODWNA would prefer to have the PRAB reply presented to/discussed with the ODWNA.
 - P. Kushner indicates that per discussions with S. Fletcher, PRAB's reply is to be circulated to everyone who submitted questions/concerns and that members of the ODWNA Board of Directors intend to meet with S. Fletcher and a subcommittee from PRAB to further discuss the project.

II. Treasurer's Report

- No report

III. Secretary's Report

- No report

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IV. Neighborhood Business (Old and New):

- None

Notes from our Guest Speaker:

- Jamie McCarthy, City of Kalamazoo Sustainable Development Coordinator for the Dept. of Community Planning & Development re: Natural Features Protection / Phase II
 - Sharing the work that the NFP Review Board and City staff and graduate students with the WMU Geography Graduate Program have been working on over the last year
 - Work has thankfully continued despite the COVID-19 challenges
 - Summary of NFP development history
 - Partnership for Phase 2
 - NFP Review Board
 - WMU Geography Graduate Program
 - City staff
 - Looked at publicly available data as well as data that required paid access
 - Making sure all parcels that have water bodies on them or are adjacent to lake or stream or wetlands (available through national wetlands directory)
 - Partnership knew map was deficient in the SE area of the City
 - Slope analysis was performed to identify slopes, etc
 - Leaned on NFP Review Board to determine which slopes of 20%+ would be included in Phase II map
 - Review of woodlands data concerning urban forest canopy
 - On a whole, the City has about 33% canopy cover, which is not evenly distributed (downtown is less than 10%; WMU campus heavier in some areas than others; Parkview Hills has most of any neighborhood in City (50%); ODWNA has 40-45%; North Side and Milwood and Edison and Stewart neighborhoods all have low tree canopy percentages)
 - Tree canopy wasn't used directly for NFP mapping but was used to determine where there was water and woodlands overlapped and slopes and woodlands overlapped as was indicative of important areas to protect
 - Adding in all parcels adjacent to a nature preserve
 - When data was overlaid onto City map and parcel lines, NFP Review Board examined to determine whether map was representative of natural areas of the City
 - Feedback where areas were not natural or were insignificant/didn't make sense, those parcels were removed from the map
 - Approximately 320 parcels were included in original NFP overlay map
 - Phase II process would add about 500 more parcels to the NFP overlay map
 - Overview of areas where most parcels are being added to the NFP overlay map
 - **Public input is sought on the current draft of the NFP Phase II Map**
 - Go to <http://www.imaginekalamazoo.com/projects/nfp2/>
 - Click the "Take the Survey" link on the web page above
 - Overview of the tool on the website to
 - 'pin' important parcels/natural features that have not yet been picked up and added in current draft of NFP Phase II map (can place up to 5 pins) or
 - 'pin' to remove parcels where the parcel might seem inappropriate to include in the NFP Phase II map
 - Deadline to use the 'pin' tool is Monday, September 21, 2020.
 - Staff to report recommendations/feedback to NFP Review Board at its next meeting (Tuesday, September 29, 2020)
 - Meeting is open to the public, which is encouraged to participate
 - After the NFP Review Board meeting, the City will post all proposed additional NFP parcels in list format and will be sending notices to all of those property owners who are being added or are within 300 feet of a parcel that is being added to the NFP overlay map
 - Another public information session will be held (likely to be virtual in format)
 - A large printed NFP Phase II map is on display and available for review at City Hall at the Clerk's Office (open M-F, 8am-3pm)
 - The NFP Phase II Map will be presented to the Planning Commission at its meeting on November 5, 2020
 - City Commission approval of the NFP Phase II Map will likely be sought in December 2020
 - Overview of how the NFP overlay affects residential property owners
 - If applying for a permit from the City of Kalamazoo and the property requiring the permit is in the NFP overlay, the application automatically goes to Jamie McCarthy for NFP review

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- The proposed development project requiring the permit is then examined with the property owner within the scope of the NFP ordinance requirements and staff works with property owner to make sure natural features are taken into account as appropriate
- Q&A with attendees
- NFP will likely continually be changing with nature and with continued efforts at improvement by the City and the NFP Review Board



V. **Additional Public Comments:**

- P. Kushner thanked everyone for attendance and participation
- P. Kushner gave reminder of guest speakers for ODWNA October Meeting: Kalamazoo County Commissioners for each of the districts in the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood (District 2 – Zac Bauer; District 3 – Tracy Hall)

VI. **Adjournment:** 8:11 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher Bovid, ODWNA Secretary