

ODWNA Board Meeting Notes

Date/Time: Wednesday January 20, 2013, 7:00pm

Place: Winchell Elementary School Library

Present: Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer; Kathy Shook, Board Member

Absent: Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; and Board Members Tom Kayser, Becky Mutsaers, Deb Klug, and Barb McCrea



- I. **Call to Order:** 7:05 pm
- II. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance \$741.93. Sixty-six (66) households are current in their dues. The anticipated ODWNA operating budget for fiscal year 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 is approximately \$1019. The majority of the budget goes to the fall neighborhood mailing (~\$660), and for e-mail/internet services.
- III. **Secretary's Report:** Secretary absent; no report
- IV. **Guest Speaker.** Sharon Carlson spoke on the "WMU Archives and Regional History Collection". Dr. Carlson made the following points:
 - The archive program and collection of regional materials over a 12 county area covering southwestern Michigan began back in the 1950s.
 - The collection includes: year books; photos (including the Kalamazoo Gazette archives); diaries; maps; some court documents; tax assessment records; architectural drawings; genealogical information; etc.
 - Housed in various locations over the years, this extensive collection will be consolidated and reside in the new archival building currently under construction.
 - The new building, the Zahn Legacy Collection Center, is anticipated to open in August 2013. The building is located north of Howard and west of Oakland Drive (in the wooded area south of the State Psyc. Hospital). The building will be accessed off of Oakland Drive, and features geothermal heating/cooling, a reading room, work areas, and state-of-the-art stacks.
 - Typical users of the WMU Archives have traditionally been limited to WMU faculty and students, and visiting scholars. However, Dr. Carlson pointed out that the collection of archived materials is open to the public (hard copy and electronic access to commercial sites such as American Ancestors, Sandborn Maps, and Ancestry.com). She envisions that once the new building is open, persons with an interest in genealogy, local history, and local architecture will be able to more easily access and use the archived information. For example, a homeowner might be able to find out about the history of their home, both in terms of the various architectural changes and the former occupants.
- Dr. Carlson can be contacted at #387-8790 sharon.carlson@wmich.edu
- V. **Old Business: City of Kalamazoo Traffic Board.** Dr. Claus Globig reported on the January 2013 meeting of the Traffic Board. According to Dr. Globig, the City has not committed to making the "new" STOP sign (located on east bound Winchell at the intersection of Winchell and Rambling Road) permanent, but is continuing to assess the situation. Neighborhood residents should make their wishes clear by calling Jim Hoehstra, City of Kalamazoo Traffic Engineer, at #337-8612 to let him know whether they like and want to keep the "new" STOP sign or not.
- VI. **New Business: Business Memberships and Advertising to Help Fund ODWNA.** The Board has been working on this topic. The current plan is to have businesses located within the Neighborhood, or owners of businesses who live within the Neighborhood, become non-voting Members, and to provide a mechanism for them to advertise in the eNews and on the ODWNA website. eNews advertising will be limited to five (5) sponsored ads, and website advertising will be conducted via a "Business Resource Page" with links to the individual business websites. The goal is to provide baseline funding to the ODWNA, retain the residential forum of the organization, and yet support and receive support and participation from our local businesses that give the Neighborhood its character and conveniences.

The next ODWNA Association meeting is set for Feb. 20, 2013

- VII. **Adjournment:** 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer