

## ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, September 19, 2019

**Place:** Winchell Elementary Library

### **Board Members:**

**Present:** Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Kathy Shook, Treasurer, Diana Morton-Thompson, Barb Ross, Paul Scott

**Absent:** None

**Speaker:** Laura Lam, Assistant City Manager (standing in for City Manager, Jim Ritsema)

**Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, President at 7:00 pm



### **I. President's Report**

- President Pete Kushner read announcements, welcomed new neighbors, discussed how to sign up for e-news and asked all to review the website and e-news for more information.
- He then continued with a summary update of the Neighborhood Plan as part of the City's Master Plan and how it fits. He discussed the committees that were formed to assist with producing the Plan and a synopsis of each committee's area of responsibility and highlighted the meetings held so far and the neighborhood input that had taken place.
- Next month is the follow up to the Committee's work with a Neighborhood Plan Open House.
- All the above in the eNews with links.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

- Kathy Shook reported there was \$4,334.90 in the treasury.

### **III. Secretary's Report**

- Nothing to report.

### **IV. Neighborhood Business (Old and New):**

- Neighbor Dick Wheeler mentioned a WKZO podcast featuring Sherriff Fuller regarding the implications of the legalization of marijuana and encouraged neighbors to log on and listen to it at; <https://wkzo.com/podcasts/the-morning-show-with-ken-lanphear/78/implications-of-marijuana-legalization/>
- Neighbor and former City of Kalamazoo Buildings official, Dick Baker gave a summary regarding the fact that Kalamazoo has over 50% of its land area non-taxable and a short history of a concept called Unigov, which had failed in previous decades responding to concerns from the floor:

### **Notes from our Speaker:**

**Guest Speaker: Laura Lam, Assistant City Manager, to discuss the Foundation for Excellence (FFE), Priority-Bsed Budgeting, and the Neighborhood Plan (NP) initiative**

- Addressed the good qualities of the Winchell Neighborhood.
- She discussed Priority Based Budgeting which is to "allocate resources to follow goals" in other words, "goal-oriented planning".
- She took comments and questions from the floor throughout her presentation.
- The effort consisted of a way to streamline City programs from 1,500 to 500 in number.
- The presentation continued with a history of the FFE and how to track implementation of the initiatives.
- Neighborhood Plan funding for 2018 is \$100,000 following a question from the floor, there will be funds created for smaller projects.
- Neighbor Chris Bovid inquired once the NP is in place, when will it be implemented. Answer was to outline the process that the priorities would determine the implementation, identifying resources and action items
- Neighbor Eric Boersma gave a hypothetical situation whereby the NP identified a project that conflicted with City Policy (lighted stop signs), what then? Answer was that communication is the best way to overcome these types of issues and by giving examples of other cities where such a project works well in order to get to a resolution.
- Discussion ensued regarding Imagine Kalamazoo and that it was taking a long time to reach implementation.

- V. **Peter Kushner thanked Laura for standing in at the last minute and reminded all of the 10/17 meeting; an Open House to gather neighbor feedback to help confirm the final draft goals of the NP. Meeting was adjourned: 8:51 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Shook