

## ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**Place:** Winchell Elementary Library

### **Board Members:**

**Present:**; Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer; Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; Barb Ross,

**Absent:** Kathy Shook, Paul Scott, Tom Keyser, Becky Mutsaers



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm
  - KATS has a survey that they would like people to fill out that relates to the area's transportation needs through 2045
  - Asylum Lake Preservation Association ([www.asylumlakepreservationassociation.org](http://www.asylumlakepreservationassociation.org)) is looking for board members.
  - Kalamazoo Dept of Public Safety is having "Coffee with a Cop" at Sweetwater's on Thursday at 11:00 am. They are also having a meeting with neighborhood board representatives later this month that Pete will attend.
- II. **Secretary's Report**
  - Next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> and is Nelson Breech Nave, AIA
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
  - Diana reported on current balance; same as January 2015.
- IV. **Neighborhood Business (Old and New):**
  - 2 upcoming library events that may be of interest, consult mailing from library or their website for more information:
    - Crane Park, from gravel to park.
    - Historical night next Monday
- V. **Public Comments:**
  - None

### Notes from our Speaker:

**Guest Speaker:** Diana Morton-Thompson, Registered Professional Geologist

**Topic:** Kalamazoo Geology – Discover the Natural Processes behind the Landscape of Kalamazoo and the Oakland Drive – Winchell Neighborhood

"Our own ODWNA Treasurer", Diana, presented a PowerPoint presentation with many illustrations that cannot be adequately explained with words. Here are some brief notes:

- Geology is the study of the physical and chemical processes that act upon our Earth over time.

- Geologists are the Earth's doctors, in that they make observations, collect samples and conduct tests to help evaluate the "health" of the planet. Geologists perform 4 main functions:

- Discover useful materials that help us build and maintain our modern society
- Identify stable environments safe for human activity
- Warn of natural disasters
- Remedy past human abuses of natural features, and help prevent future abuses of the natural environment

- Geologists use their understanding of present physical/chemical processes to help them understand the past, and also use their understanding of the past and present to help predict the future of natural resources such as water, and natural processes such as erosion-sedimentation.

In Kalamazoo and in our neighborhood the landscapes we see are fundamentally controlled by the geology, in that the topography (hills, valleys, etc.) was primarily formed as a result of glacial processes that started taking place approximately 15,500 years ago. At that time the great Pleistocene-age Laurentide Ice Sheet that had formerly blanketed the area was melting. The uneven melting resulted in complex landforms. Consequently, every neighborhood, and every city has their own unique geologic story.

The major topographic features formed by the glaciers in Kalamazoo include the Kalamazoo Moraine, outwash fans, outwash plains, tunnel valleys, the Kalamazoo River Valley, and kettle lakes. In the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood, we live on the outwash fans of the Kalamazoo Moraine. Small-scale glacial features we can see on our daily walks include: the outwash deposits, tunnel valleys, and kettle lakes. These glacial features have been more recently modified by stream valleys, erosion, and human activities; the most pronounced are human activities.

Human activities have fundamentally changed the dynamics and health of Arcadia Creek (creek that hugs Stadium Drive and you cross just east of the Stadium Drive - Howard Street intersection), and of the neighborhood kettle lakes (Asylum Lake, Little Asylum Lake, Woods Lake, Pikes Pond, Kleinstuck). It is important to recognize that in particular, urban kettle lakes are very fragile. While all lakes have a "life cycle", human intervention can extend the life of these lakes, or it can dramatically hasten their death. Also, it is important to recognize that when we look out across the water of these lakes, we are effectively seeing the surface expression of the top of the groundwater table; groundwater being our source of drinking water in Kalamazoo.

- VI. **Adjournment:** 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary