

## ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014

**Place:** Winchell Elementary Library

**Board Members:**

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

**Absent:** Becky Mutsaers, Tom Keyser



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:00 pm
  - Welcome
  - Woods Lake Meeting Dec. 10 from 5:30 – 7:00, all are welcome. Location: Parks & Recreation Dept.
  - We were able to provide an assist in finding new owners for the Luminary Program and transfer the ownership of it.
  - Recognition of Sponsors
- II. **Secretary's Report**
  - Next meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup> and Jim Ritsema will be here to discuss City and Neighborhood Issues.
- III. **Treasurer's Report**
  - 500 Households receive the eNews and we have about 100 dues-paying households. Report on financial status.
- IV. **Neighborhood Business (Old and New):**
  - Mike Nelson is the new Housing Inspector for our neighborhood and spoke with us for about 5 to 10 minutes. He conducts inspections of rental properties and handles other housing issues. His email is [nelsonm@kalamazoo.org](mailto:nelsonm@kalamazoo.org) and his direct phone number is 337-8447.
  - Paul Scott quick note regarding Asylum Lake Preserve – there will be a Visionary Meeting on Saturday February 7 for those interested in attending. More information to be announced on time and location.
- V. **Public Comments:**
  - None

### Notes from our Speaker:

**Guest Speakers:** Dr. David Brose

**Topic:** Native Americans in Kalamazoo

Dr. Brose always brings great slides, and the notes cannot represent well the visuals that we were privileged to see.

More than 1,300 Mastodons have been found in Southern Michigan. It wouldn't be surprising if there was one at the bottom of Kleinstuck Preserve. The Native Americans came from North Asia, probably to hunt large animals. By 9,000 BC, the large animals (beavers the size of 4 people, mastodons, saber tooth tigers, etc.) were all gone due to climate change and hunting. Trading of tools and jewels was taking place between regions.

There are many mounds where people were buried with their stuff. Some of the largest of these mounds are in Ohio. Many of these mounds have celestial orientations. There is one in the Saginaw River Valley. These mounds frequently had "earth works" involved. For example, there is one near the Ohio River that involves a large serpent as part of the mound.

How languages evolved. From 1,000 AD on, there were tons of languages.

The Native Americans left sculptures and lived in nomadic tent like homes. In the Great Lakes Region, the natural resources centered around the water, specifically, rice and fish.

People in this area became committed to agriculture. They learned to cook in a pot. This enabled cooking all kinds of things that you could not cook without the use of a pot, such as maple syrup.

Native Americans decorated pottery, tools, arrows, etc. to indicate their group.

The experimentation with agriculture here led to various types of corn. The corn varieties spread south, and corn became plentiful. This allowed permanent villages to start to take hold. In cold climates, people started using raised beds in about 1100 AD, which allows for a longer growing season. In 1800 AD the Europeans came to Kalamazoo and made drawings of the raised bed designs.

Christopher Columbus sailed west and fell off the edge of the earth, and 7 years later he arrived in the Caribbean.

The Vikings arrived in the northeast much earlier than Columbus, most of them died, and those who didn't were happy to get back to Iceland.

The Europeans brought many things to the Native Americans: iron fishhooks, needles, smallpox and measles. In 1584 the first European settlers arrived. In 1587, the French helped another tribe attack the Iroquois. Afterwards, the Iroquois wouldn't let the French into this region. They couldn't get past Montreal for 200 years. The French made many maps of Michigan, which are some of the first historical records of the geography and the various tribes and what areas each occupied. Around 1690, the maps of Michigan became much more accurate. In 1666 the French were in St. Ignace. In 1678, LaSalle, who was an illegal fur trader, builds a boat and starts canoeing from St. Ignace to Chicago to trade. In 1760 the English attack the French in Montreal and the French give up this area ("why are we fighting for a piece of ice?"). Pontiac attacked posts at Detroit, Green Bay, Niles and Mackinac City. In 1796 the Shawnee and Ohio were involved in the Battle of Falling Timbers and gave up most of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan to the Europeans. In the 1770's and 1780's, the Miami were here.

After 1796, the Potawatomie started moving back into this area. The Iroquois held the New York area. The Tecumseh rebellion ended with the Tecumseh fleeing to Canada. William Henry Harrison led an attack on the Native Americans before running for Vice President. In the 1800's, the Native Americans give Michigan up to the government and accept just having small tribes. Our neighborhood was given to the Potawatomie in 1821 and the US took it back in 1827. The Potawatomie were given little reservations by Gun Lake and also near Athens. The Dowagiac have a good size reservation and were protected by the Catholics. There are several reservations in Michigan still today, and Central Michigan University is partly on a reservation.

Mention of Bronson Park Fountain and the ongoing meetings for the planning of Bronson Park.

Kalamazoo plans to mark the corners of where the Potawatomie reservations was.

VI. **Adjournment:** 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary