

ODWNA Association Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Place: Third Christian Reformed Church – Small Conference Room

Board Members:

Present: Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Christopher Bovid, Secretary; Kathy Shook, Treasurer; Paul Scott; Eric Boersma;

Excused: Diana Morton-Thompson

In Attendance: Approximately 39 people (includes Board members)



I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, President, 7:05 pm

- Welcome
- Thank you to Third Christian Reformed Church for use of space for meeting
- Reminder: www.winchellneighborhood.org, availability of Neighborhood and City news
- Speaker next month is Derek Nofz, Chair of Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership (“KDP”)
- Not an official ODWNA matter but the Neighborhood Community Read (“Nature’s Best Hope”) put on by Donna Keller was a great success (40+ attendees) Information for the next one can be found on our website. ODWNA supports it as it is in alignment with the ODW Neighborhood Plan.
- Winchell Neighborhood Native Plant Enthusiasts is another group starting up in the neighborhood, also in alignment with neighborhood plan.
- Parkview Avenue reconstruction project to start Monday, March 21, 2022. The City has informed ODWNA that through early April the street will be closed completely. From April through October, eastbound traffic will be maintained but westbound will be closed from Oakland Drive to Drake Road.
 - Reminder that if traffic problems increase in the neighborhood, submit complaints (whether by telephone or using website form submission) to KDPS and request traffic enforcement
- Discussion regarding Neighborhood Plan development process and two key issues that came from it: traffic calming and connecting neighborhoods and making streets safer for non-motorized users.
- Kalamazoo Half Marathon – Sunday, April 24, 2022. Working with race officials to get word out.
 - If want to volunteer, contact Donna Keller
- Update on Ad Hoc Deer Committee: The City had requested that the deer issues be demonstrated to them to show that the urban deer population is not just an “Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood” problem. An ad hoc committee made up of several neighborhood representatives was formed and conducted a survey and has prepared a report regarding that survey, which is now available on our website and was presented to the City Commission by Pete Kushner on Monday, February 21, 2022. There were no objections. Ad Hoc Deer Committee and Report had broken recommendations into two phases: Phase I suggestions (education, modification of fence ordinance to raise fence heights, enforcement of deer feeding, contract with Republic Services to collect animal carcasses, most of which have been implemented) and Phase II (City should research a comprehensive short-, medium-, and long-term deer management plan).
- Discussion regarding elimination of parking on Winchell Avenue by Asylum Lake Preserve due to bike lanes being added along Winchell Ave. from Oakland Dr. to Winchell Way Apartments.

II. **Introduction of Guest Speaker: Mark Kieser, Senior Scientist, from Kieser & Associates LLC – Care of Woods Lake**

- **“All Roads Lead to Woods Lake... Literally”**
 - A lot of interest in mid-1990’s as to what was happening to Woods Lake
 - Opportunity to work with the City and the Woods Lake Association to determine issue and determine how to address them
- Summary of Past K&A Efforts
 - 1997 Water Quality Study
 - 1999 Stormwater Treatment Design
 - 2002 Treatment System Construction
 - 2007 Stormwater Monitoring (funding from Kalamazoo Community Foundation)
 - 2009 Stormwater Performance Report
 - 2021 Limited Assessment of Operational Conditions
- Woods Lake is about 24 acres with no natural stream inputs, has 5 outfalls. No outlets so whatever goes in, stays in.
- Woods Lake is about 40+ feet deep in middle and shallower toward edges.
- Crest Drive, Lorraine West, Lorraine East, and Chevy Chase are the remaining stormwater outfalls.
- 1997 Lake/Watershed Study Goals
 - WLA/City concerns led to
 - Assessment of current conditions
 - Sampling of stormwater, lake water and sediments
 - Identifying options and developing strategies for:
 - I. 1) Plan to stop continued degradation of the lake
 - II. 2) Methods to reverse the degraded condition of the lake

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- K&A Tasks
 - Woods Lake watershed characterization/water quality sampling
 - Watershed Pollutant Loading Analyses through development of GIS-based Unit Area Loading (UAL) Model
 - Engineering evaluation for Stormwater Design/Treatment Alternatives
 - Assessment of Best Management Practices
 - Assessment of In-lake Restoration Alternatives
 - Implementation of a Public Outreach Program
- Woods Lake Drainage
 - City of Kalamazoo has excellent online Geographic Information System
 - Review of maps of drainage area(s)
 - Largest area (roughly 60%) was from Kensington and west of it
 - Typically need to slow down stormwater and given largest drainage area and input to the lake, Kensington Park was good place to address it
- 1997 WQ Study Outcomes
 - Bathymetric mapping of Woods Lake
 - Pollutant loading estimates
 - Sediment thickness survey
 - Long-term water quality management goals and objectives
 - Surficial sediment survey
 - Identification of baseline water quality
 - Updated drainage basin characterization
- 1999 Shovel-ready Opportunity?
 - Conceptual designs
 - Using seawall as part of treatment system
 - EPA Region 5 from Chicago met regarding final design because federal funding was used
 - Sediment forebay collects stormwater with sediment
 - Discharges from pond into infiltration trench (gravel with filter fabric underneath and corrugated discharge pipes) in marshy area for detention for particle settling over 24 hours
- 2002 Three-Stage Treatment System Funding
 - Targeting approximately 50% of total loads
- Forebay and Infiltration Trench Construction
- Wet Pond ('sea wall') Construction
- A "25-year System"
 - The federal agencies knew the importance of the system
 - EPA had never permitted use of the lake as part of the treatment system
 - Realized needs to maintain park and utilize part of lake
 - EPA said would never allow to be permanent system, so they called it a "25-year system" to get it permitted
 - City of Kalamazoo is responsible for long term maintenance and operation
- Intensive 2007 Water Quality Sampling
 - Kalamazoo Foundation Funding
 - K&A and WMU student looked at rainfall volumes and concentrations going into and out of the system
 - Found was working very effectively.
 - About 68% of water coming in was infiltrating the ground so didn't need to be separately treated by the system
- 2007-8 Study Findings
 - Approximately 96% stormwater capture (by volume)
 - Approximately 75% infiltrated (by volume)
 - Estimated 81% reduction of Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorus total load
- Some Things Change
 - Sea wall is leaning but is still performing
 - Changes in terms of how water flows in and out of system
- 2020-21 Operational Analysis
 - 2021 Operational Condition Assessment Findings
 - Clean out forebay (effectiveness had been reduced by 20 years of accumulated sediment)
 - Reset forebay outlet pipes (pipes had raised, causing stormwater to be diverted to lake without treatment)
 - Clean out/replace infiltration trench
- The Future
 - Regular Kensington Treatment System maintenance
 - Updated lake/drainage conditions assessment
 - Implementation of stormwater controls at other outlets
 - Curb turnouts: shallow, soft swales add some extra treatment

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- City has stormwater policy adopted after this project indicating that when property is being redeveloped, need to add stormwater treatment
- What was relevant of other aspects of some roadside swales, which is where EPA has gone in last two decades (keep treatment as close to source as can rather than capturing and treatment at the last minute)
- EPA doesn't like funding these regional systems anymore as it is pushing green infrastructure in development
- Similar system being considered for Asylum Lake at west end where every time it rains, stormwater is going in untreated
- Control of in-lake sediment phosphorus release
- Recognize the inevitable...
 - Informed decisions
 - Wise investments
- "The job is never done."

Audience Q&A:

- If dredged Woods Lake, would it drain? Unlikely – would need to go pretty deep.
- Question regarding design of system for infiltration: The system provided more infiltration than what K&A thought might happen. When sediment forebay fills up, there is more bypass of untreated water directly into the lake.
- Discussion concerning City of Kalamazoo maintenance and operation concerns
- Discussion concerning road salt concentrations in urban lakes and stratification of lake water
 - There are no stormwater treatment technologies to remove salt from water
 - There are industrial methods, but they require pH to get to 12, which is bad
- If you can carry your boat down to the dock, can launch but there is no place where the public can drive your trailered boat in.
- Question regarding rumor of connection between Woods Lake and Whites Lake is false.
- Hydroacoustics done by K&A on lake did not show any roller coaster parts.
- Question regarding whether to add State boat launch. Mark says it would lead to invasive species.
- Use of alum in the lake would be short lived if storm drain outfalls aren't reworked first.
- Most of the e. Coli that might be found in the lake probably come from waterfowl, not yard drains or sewers.
- Watershed management plans including curb turnouts, etc., but come with huge price tags

III. **Adjournment:** 8:37 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher Bovid, ODWNA Secretary