

ODWNA Association Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Place: Third Christian Reformed Church, 2400 Winchell Ave, Kalamazoo, MI

Board Members:

Present: Diana Morton-Thompson, Vice-President; Christopher Bovid, Secretary; Rachel Bennett, Treasurer; Barb Miller; Christine Chadderdon; Eric Boersma; Paul Scott; Stephanie Watkins

Excused: Chris Shook, President; Peter Kushner, Past President

In Attendance: Approximately 56 people (includes Board members)



- I. Meeting called to order by Diana Morton-Thompson, Vice-President; 7:03 PM
 - A. Diana Morton-Thompson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
 - i. Thanked Third Christian Reformed Church for allowing us to use
 - ii. Introduced attendee the Hon. David Anderson, Mayor
 - iii. Introduced attendee Laura Lam, City of Kalamazoo Chief Operating Officer
 - iv. Introduced attendee Christina Anderson, City Planner
 - B. Announcements (Diana Morton-Thompson, Vice President):
 - i. Request to use Sign-in Sheet / eNews sign-up
 - ii. Upcoming City Listening Sessions
 1. City Commissioners and City Staff will be scheduling visits to the various City neighborhoods for meetings with the sole purpose of listening to resident concerns.
 2. Questions and concerns can be emailed to the ODWNA prior to the listening sessions or anytime after and will be forwarded to City staff
 3. When the City schedules the ODWNA listening session it will be announced on the ODWNA website and in the eNews.
 - iii. Board Introductions:
 1. Chris Shook (Pres.) (business/real estate manager)
 2. Diana Morton-Thompson (geologist)
 3. Chris Bovid (attorney)
 4. Rachel Bennett (nurse)
 5. Pete Kushner (marketing consultant)
 6. Barb Miller (Foundation For Excellence board member, former member of City Comm., KPS Bd. of Ed.)
 7. Christine Chadderdon (medical technologist, ret.)
 8. Eric Boersma (engineering software consultant)
 9. Paul Scott (social worker, ret.)
 10. Stephanie Watkins (non-profit administrator)
- II. Treasurer's Report – (Rachel Bennett, Treasurer)
 - A. Reported checking account balance as of August 31, 2023
 - B. Reported anticipated upcoming expenses to be paid from the balance
 - C. Reported that ODWNA account documents are printed and available for review on the back table for anyone interested.
- III. Business Items:
 - A. ODWNA liaisons with other Neighborhood Associations and Outside Organizations (Diana Morton-Thompson)
 - I. Reported on the purpose and goals of having neighborhood association liaisons
 - B. Neighborhood Quick Win Project Updates (Chris Bovid for Peter Kushner)
 - I. Reported "Quick Win Funds" of \$7500 awarded for use in the neighborhood for City-reviewed and approved projects that align with the Neighborhood Plan and can be paid for by 12/31/2023.
 - II. Reported the list of project ideas that had been promulgated and prioritized by the Board of Directors and submitted to the City for its review, project costing, and approval/disapproval:
 - 1) Pollinator/wildflower seeds
 - 2) Traffic Calming Signs – Hillcrest
 - 3) Neighborhood Benches
 - 4) "Winchell Neighborhood" Sign
 - 5) Winchell Information Boards
 - 6) STOP signs (solar flashing)
 - 7) Neighborhood Street Banners
 - 8) "Children at Play" signs
 - 9) "Peace" Poles
 - III. Reported that allocation of another \$7500 in Quick Win Funds is anticipated for the ODWNA in 2024.

ODWNA Association Meeting Minutes



- C. Asylum Lake Policy Management Council (Paul Scott)
 - I. Reported that the Council received a \$550,000 grant from the State of Michigan and the Council is spending an additional \$2250,000 of its own to design and implement a stormwater filtration system and experimental saltwater removal system.
 - II. Reported that a press release regarding the project construction is scheduled to be issued soon and the ODWNA will put it in the eNews.
 - D. ODWNA Constitution Review Committee Update (Barb Miller)
 - I. Reported that a committee has been formed and met last month.
 - II. Reported that the committee chair is attorney Andy Vorbrich and other members include Barb Miller, Pete Kushner, Terri Dahl, and attorney John Boley.
 - III. Reported that the committee will be working on a wide variety of changes to the ODWNA Constitution, some minor (e.g., typographical errors) and some more substantive and impactful of many other parts of the document.
 - E. Woods Lake Association (Chris Bovid)
 - I. Reported that the Woods Lake Association was successful in applying to the State of Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy to conduct a water chloride levels study in Woods Lake which was started in August 2023 and will continue through July 2024.
 - II. Reported that the City of Kalamazoo Dept. of Parks & Rec obtained budget funding from the Foundation For Excellence for a 5-year water quality study of Woods Lake and hired Niswander Environmental to do the work (with water sampling and lab work being done by ODWN resident Dr. Tiffany Schriever).
 - III. Reported that the Kalamazoo County Health Department's weekly e. coli tests of the water at the beach at Woods Lake Park demonstrated extremely low e. coli bacteria levels in the lake all summer long.
 - F. Complete Streets/Safe Routes to School (Eric Boersma)
 - I. Reported that there is not a lot of new information to report except that the feedback from ODWN residents has been that more sidewalks are desired and the City is aware of that and attempting to build sidewalks when the resources are available.
 - II. Encouraged ODWN residents to reach out to City Planner Christina Anderson regarding street safety planning issues as she has been championing the sidewalk efforts and seeking money from the State and other sources to help implement projects.
- IV. Featured Speaker – ODWNA Speaker Series
- A. Jacqueline (Jae) Slaby, Neighborhood Activator, City of Kalamazoo
 - i. Introduced by Diana Morton-Thompson
 - ii. Noted that Jae is challenged with leading development and implementation of Neighborhood Plans for the City's 22 neighborhoods
 - iii. Noted that Jae is focused on bridging communications between the City and its organizations
 - B. Jae noted that the City has many different plans, all of which are available online at ImagineKalamazoo.com and that she can also provide copies.
 - C. Jae reports that the City wants its collection of plans to not be separated with some put on a shelf while others are focused upon heavily and want to continue to implement them year after year.
 - D. Jae reports that the City has a Strategic Vision
 - i. Includes 10 strategic vision goals (e.g., providing safe water city-wide)
 - ii. Very broad, high level goals
 - iii. Helps staff understand what residents want to see across the City
 - iv. Can look very different from neighborhood to neighborhood
 - v. The question of how to take high level, strategic vision goals and implement them is answered by the City's 10-year "Master Plan"
 - 1. Looks at zoning, land use, and transportation
 - 2. Can also include range of other topics important to residents
 - 3. Includes strategies to implement the 10 strategic vision goals (e.g., replacement of lead service lines)
 - 4. Jae reports that the City decided to adopt a Neighborhood Planning model including:
 - a. Develop a neighborhood plan for all 22 neighborhoods
 - b. Ask each neighborhood to plan a group (an association) made up of people that are stakeholders in the neighborhood to help steward and support the implementation of the Neighborhood Plan
 - c. Winchell Neighborhood 's ODWNA worked on its plan for approximately 2 years.
 - d. When City departments look at budgets, they look at specific locations identified in the Neighborhood Plan
 - 5. Another one of the related plans is the Community Sustainability Plan
 - a. Helps the City and neighborhoods determine projects related to sustainability

ODWNA Association Meeting Minutes



- b. The City looks at transportation, the green circular economy, create feedback loops for food (e.g., community gardens, local farms/food producers), storm water runoff, erosion, deer
- 6. Another one of the related plans is the Public Participation Plan
 - a. Determine stakeholders and positive and negative impacts to them
 - b. Determine impacts on existing City processes
 - c. Consider engagement timeline
 - d. Consider what engagement looks like (social media posts, mailings, town hall meetings)
- E. Jae had the attendees participate in interactive exercises:
 - i. Break into 6 groups
 - ii. Each group gets a written 'prompt' listing an actual ODWN plan project
 - iii. For each project the group should discuss and fill out what to consider and how to implement it in light of the City's Public Participation Plan
 - iv. Worksheets were also handed out with information to provide more context for the City's Public Participation Plan
 - v. The groups then reported on their discussions and results.
- V. Old/New Business
 - A. Comments and questions on planning and implementation of traffic calming measures were offered by attendees and responded to by Jae Slaby and where applicable, ODWNA board members.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned by Diana Morton-Thompson, Vice President at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher Bovid, ODWNA Secretary