

## ODWNA Association Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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

**Board Members:**

**Present:** Chris Shook, President; Diana Morton-Thompson, Vice-President; Rachel Bennett, Treasurer; Christopher Bovid, Secretary; Peter Kushner, Past President; Barb Miller; Christine Chadderdon; Stephanie Watkins, Paul Scott



**In Attendance:** Approximately 24 people (includes Board members)

- I. Meeting called to order by Chris Shook, President; 7:00 PM
  - A. Announcements:
    - i. Our guest speaker from Modeshift Kalamazoo had to cancel this evening due to illness.
    - ii. Community Policing Report - Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety - Officer Bagley
      1. There was a report of shots fired
      2. Officer Bagley does also the Hillcrest portion of the neighborhood for community policing purposes. Feel free to call him if there are any issues that arise there.
      3. KDPS offers ride alongs if anyone is interested.
      4. KDPS went through CIS training recently.
      5. KDPS will be hosting Citizens Academy (once per Spring and once per Fall). Citizens get to come and be an officer for a day, drive police cars, do traffic stops. Meals are provided. There is also a fire department section.
      6. KDPS also offers CPR classes at the new KDPS Station #2 or KDPS can also come to citizens and do the classes.
- II. MINUTES – March 20, 2024 (Chris Bovid, Secretary)
  - A. Minutes from the 3/20/2023 ODWNA meeting are posted on the ODWNA website.
  - B. Minutes adopted without objection.
- III. TREASURER’S REPORT - (Chris Shook for Rachel Bennett, Treasurer)
  - A. ODWNA Checking Account Balance as of 3/31/2024 was \$8,343.49.
  - B. If anyone is unsure about current membership, please talk with Rachel Bennett.
- IV. BUSINESS ITEMS
  - A. Constitution Revisions update – Chris Bovid
    - I. The ad hoc Constitution Review Committee (chaired by neighborhood resident and attorney Andy Vorbrich and with other members and neighborhood residents John Boley, Terri Dall, Pete Kushner, and Barb Miller) met over several months, reviewing and eventually proposing to the ODWNA Board of Directors a number of suggested revisions to the ODWNA Constitution.
    - II. The ODWNA Board of Directors subsequently met in person for several hours with registered parliamentarian Todd Ellis in February 2024 to carefully review and consider the suggested revisions from the Constitution Review Committee.
    - III. At its April 2024 meeting, the ODWNA Board of Directors then formally approved sending the final proposed revisions to the ODWNA voting membership for a vote.
    - IV. Formal notice of the ODWNA’s Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 will be sent electronically to Voting Members with links to the electronic ballots on Thursday, April 25, 2024 and voting will remain open for 20 days until the Annual Meeting is adjourned.
    - V. If the proposed revisions are not adopted then the current Constitution will remain in effect.
    - VI. If anyone has any questions regarding the proposed revisions to the ODWNA Constitution, please feel free to ask a board member or any of the Constitution Review Committee members.
    - VII. An attendee asked a question about on what items the ODWNA spends its money and discussion with the ODWNA Treasurer and the ODWNA Secretary ensued regarding expenses.
    - VIII. Donna Keller suggested that it might be appropriate to use ODWNA funds to purchase yard signs with QR codes that could be posted in the neighborhood ahead of meetings or upcoming votes and perhaps allowing people to make a donation if they wanted to, etc. She suggested that such donations could provide an alternative to requiring members to pay dues to be voting members.
    - IX. Donna Keller asked several questions about the purpose and/or meaning of various existing and proposed revisions to the ODWNA Constitution. Answers were provided by Chris Bovid.
  - B. Neighborhood Quick Win Projects Update (Stephanie Watkins)
    - I. Submissions are still being accepted for Neighborhood Betterment Projects. They will be accepted until April 26 and then they will be evaluated using a rubric from the City. There is only one \$500 project award to be distributed.
    - II. Rachel Bennett reported on the ODWNA group bike ride to Bronson Park for Bike Week, which group bike ride will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM beginning at Sawall’s and ending at Bronson Park.

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- C. Woods Lake Association (Chris Bovid)
- I. The Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy (EGLE)'s chloride study of Woods Lake and Asylum Lake continues (note the big red ball in the middle of each of the lakes with monitors attached to the cable below). The Kalamazoo Dept. of Parks & Recreation's water quality study of Woods Lake also continues with limited time funding from the Foundation For Excellence. Any questions may be directed to Chris Bovid at [cbovid@gmail.com](mailto:cbovid@gmail.com) as president of the Woods Lake Association.
  - II. Old Business / New Business:
    - i. An attendee announced that on April 27, 2024 from 9am to 2pm the City of Kalamazoo is hosting a Natural World Symposium at the Girl Scouts of America Office at 601 W. Maple Street in Kalamazoo to educate people about native lawns and gardens, urban deer, and invasive species along with the opportunity to meet local climate action and natural world groups in Kalamazoo.
    - ii. Donna Keller announced that on Sunday, May 5, 2025 she will be hosting a "Backyard Garden Wander" about native plants / native gardening with beer and snacks provided. All are welcome.
    - iii. An attendee announced that KVCC is going to be having a "Soil Shop" where you can bring in your soil and they will test it to tell you how to improve it, all for free. The program is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services. Check the KVCC website for more details. The dates are expected to be scheduled at the end of April or early May.
    - iv. An attendee asked how the ODWNA determines speakers for the association meetings. Chris Shook answered that if anyone has suggestions, feel free to email the Board with suggested speaker topics to as we are really open to that and are always looking for ideas on what the neighbors want to hear about. Chris Shook stated that the sooner emails are sent the better as we schedule the entire year's speaker series in the summer and do have deadlines.
    - v. Alaina Schuld announced that the Kalamazoo Marathon will be in 2.5 weeks (Sunday, May 5), with the route coming through the Winchell Neighborhood. Starting time is 7:00 AM and the fastest runners will be in our neighborhood around 7:15 AM. They come up Benjamin, to Tipperrary, to Lorraine, Dickie, Spruce, and then south on Oakland. The half marathon starts at 8:30 AM with runners here between 8:45 AM and 9:30 AM. The 10k only skirts the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood but starts at 8:50 AM. There are two water stops (one in front of Third Christian Reformed Church and the other is at Dickie & Spruce). The "Bacon Station" is being moved to Bronson Blvd so it is further along into the course. That is now being manned by the Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo. A new addition to the race is the 'marathon relay.' The first stop for that is in front of Winchell Elementary School. There are approximately 21 teams so there will be 21 cars parked in front of Winchell Elementary that morning. Roads will be open but there will likely be stoppages when big groups are moving through an area.
      1. Discussion ensued about trying to figure out how to get out of the neighborhood during the race. Alaina Schuld said course monitor leads should be contacted to figure out answers to specific traffic planning questions.
      2. Alaina Schuld noted that with the races now being staggered there shouldn't be as big of groups passing through areas together so as to cause long traffic stoppages.
      3. Questions: email to [hello@kalamazoomarathon.org](mailto:hello@kalamazoomarathon.org)
  - V. Chris Shook, President, adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christopher Bovid, ODWNA Secretary