

**Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Election Questionnaire**



This questionnaire is intended for use in helping the ODWNA board establish the candidate election slate as well as informing Association voting members of your interest in becoming a board member. This will be your best tool for telling the neighborhood why you would like to be an ODWNA board member. **The information provided below will be distributed to voting members of the Association with their ballots so that they might contact the applicant to learn more about them.**

Contact Information:

Name: Eric Boersma

Street Address: [REDACTED]
(for internal board use only; will NOT be published)

Phone: [REDACTED] 2)
(for internal board use only; will NOT be published)

Email: ericmboersma@gmail.com
(will be provided to voting members)

Education: BS Engineering Design & Technology, Western Michigan University

Occupation: Software Consultant Employer: Self

BOARD POSITION YOU ARE RUNNING FOR: at large member

1) What are your reason(s) for wanting to serve on the ODWNA board?
I am seeking re-election to the ODWNA Board so that I can continue my efforts on making the Winchell Neighborhood the most sought after location in the city. I would like to see through the number of initiatives and projects that I started working on back in 2019, which include the Safe Routes to School Grant, the Connected and Complete Streets Initiative, and ensuring that we continue to make improvements to our neighborhood infrastructure that improves the quality of life for all residents.

2) Please give your background, experience, or expertise, which you feel will be of value to the ODWNA.
I have been actively involved with the ODWNA and City of Kalamazoo since 2018. I worked on a number of committees that helped craft the neighborhoods master plan, and have been a central figure in implementing a number of initiatives that have helped make our neighborhood a better place to live. Sidewalk installation along Rambling Road. Bike Paths throughout the area. Road improvements, repaving, and traffic calming.

Over the past few years I have been able to establish a strong working relationship with members of City

Government, which are instrumental in getting any of our projects off the ground. These relationships are a vital piece of the puzzle in being able to help prioritize our neighborhood needs with the goals and plans of the City.

3) How could the ODWNA better meet the needs of the people living in our neighborhood?

By continuing to hold open meetings, listening to the issues of the residents, and collectively working together as a group to find solutions. At the moment there appears to be a sense of individualism in that people are only willing to work on solutions that meet their own personal needs instead of taking into consideration the 1,500+ households that make up our amazing neighborhood. I will continue to reach out, talk, and try to find common ground solutions that meet the needs of the entire neighborhood while holding true to our neighborhood plan.

4) Are there any specific neighborhood and/or city issues that you feel the ODWNA needs to become more involved in?

Continuing to advocate, and push for more road projects. Additionally we need to continue to have open dialog with the city on additional means to help calm traffic, create more presence of police to deter mail theft, larceny, and speeding, and emphasize the need for additional infrastructure improvements in the years to come.

5) List other community boards, clubs, organizations, etc., to which you now belong or have belonged in the past.

Founder and head of youth wrestling program
Volunteer coach
Former member of WMU Graduate program advisory board

6) Have you received, read, understand, and agree to meet the criteria/expectations of an ODWNA board member if elected?

Yes

** Applicants are welcome to attach additional information such as a current resume, if available.*

Signature:  Date: March 14, 2023