

**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: Christopher Bovid

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(for internal board use only; will NOT be published)

Phone: 1) [REDACTED] 2) [REDACTED]  
(for internal board use only; will NOT be published)

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

Education: B.A. cum laude - Business Administration / Michigan State University Eli Broad College of Business and Honors College  
J.D. cum laude (w/Taxation Law Concentration certificate) / Michigan State University College of Law

Occupation: Attorney Employer: The Bovid Law Firm

BOARD POSITION YOU ARE RUNNING FOR: Secretary

1) What are your reason(s) for wanting to serve on the ODWNA board?

My family and I have lived in the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood for ten years and the appreciation for this area and our neighbors that I have developed during that time inspires me to want to [continue to] help lead neighborhood advocacy, communication, and community improvement efforts. Volunteering my time and professional knowledge and skills as a Director, and as Secretary, of the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood Association has proven to be a meaningful, fulfilling way to work toward those goals and I would be eager to continue doing so. Serving on the ODWNA Board of Directors has also provided an ongoing opportunity for me, as the president of the Woods Lake Association, to keep the ODWNA Board of Directors apprised of matters regarding the health and care of Woods Lake and the two City parks on its shores, which are community jewels that we are fortunate to have located within our neighborhood.

2) Please give your background, experience, or expertise, which you feel will be of value to the ODWNA.  
Please see the attached Addendum.

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

I believe the ODWNA could better meet the needs of the people living in our neighborhood by having more diverse resident participation, including higher attendance at regular meetings, and thereby gain not only more and broader insight into the needs of the neighborhood at large (especially as needs might change over time) but also potentially gain new ideas for solutions within and despite any limitations that we might face (e.g., laws, costs, timing, etc.).

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

Having been a Director for the ODWNA for several years now, it is my impression that the ODWNA is quite heavily involved in most neighborhood and/or city issues that impact our members. As a parent of two Kalamazoo Public Schools students, I would like for the ODWNA as a whole (i.e., its membership) to become more involved in supporting and advocating for students and their teachers at the national, state, and local level, including Winchell Elementary School, Maple Street Middle School, and Loy Norrix High School. Specifically, our members individually should advocate for reducing the focus on computer-based, standardized test results instead of allowing teachers to do their jobs and teach our students using the methods that they find work best; making sure there are enough bus drivers to avoid rolling bus route cancellations; and providing teachers with basic supplies for their classrooms that struggling young families aren't asked to donate them.

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

Please see the attached Addendum.

- 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: /s/ Christopher Bovid Date: March 23, 2023

**Addendum to Christopher Bovid's  
Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association  
Board of Directors Election Questionnaire**

**My volunteer experience with the ODWNA and actions in support of the ODWNA Neighborhood Plan** include having served as a Director and as the Secretary of the ODWNA since 2018, attending and taking minutes at nearly all of the ODWNA regular meetings and board meetings; and attending various other ODWNA ad hoc committee meetings; serving on the ODWNA Neighborhood Plan - Good Governance Committee and Zoning And Land Use Committee; attending and facilitating at Neighborhood Plan open houses; serving on the City of Kalamazoo Dept. of Community Planning & Economic Development's ad hoc committee to assist in the drafting the Natural Features Protection Zoning ordinance; and serving as an alternate ODWNA representative on the Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council ("ALPMC") and on its current subcommittee for the Asylum Lake Stormwater Treatment System project.

**My volunteer experience with other neighborhood associations** includes having served as President of the Woods Lake Association ("WLA") since 2016, attending and/or presenting at all of the WLA regular and board meetings, attending and/or presenting on behalf of the WLA at City Commission, City Planning Commission, City Tree Committee, Environmental Concerns Committee, and ad hoc committee meetings (e.g., meetings relating to City of Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Works and its maintenance on the Kensington Stormwater Treatment System; meetings relating to the City of Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety and the Dept. of Parks & Recreation and the maintenance, use, and plans for Woods Lake Park and Lake Park a/k/a Kensington Park; meetings relating to redevelopment of what is now the Consumers Credit Union site at the intersection of Oakland/Parkview; and meetings relating to development and conservation efforts at Glen Park South); serving on behalf of the WLA on the organizing committee for the Community Educational Forum (re: Kalamazoo County stormwater management); providing *pro bono* legal counsel to the Neighborhood Association of Parkview Hills ("NAPH"), and providing *pro bono* legal counsel to the Oakwood Neighborhood Association ("ONA") since 2017.

**My volunteer experience with other non-profit organizations** in the last 10 years includes serving as a Trustee, Secretary, and current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo and in those positions working with the YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo, Justice For Neighbors ("JFON") - Michigan, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency ("KRESA") Foundation, the Southwest Michigan Chapter of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, the WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, First Care Preschool & Daycare, Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community ("ISAAC"), First Presbyterian Church And Society of Kalamazoo, First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo, and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts; serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Livingston County (Michigan) Bar Association; currently serving as Secretary of the 8th Michigan District Court Landlord/Tenant Bench-Bar Committee; serving on the pro bono legal counsel panel of

the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan; and currently volunteering as a team manager with WMYSA TKO Soccer Club (“TKO Premier”).

**Some specialized contributions that I could (continue to) provide to the ODWNA** include my professional experience and licensed position as an attorney in the State of Michigan for the past 18 years and as the owner of my law practice in Kalamazoo since 2013, handling matters primarily in the areas of business, corporate, banking, and real estate transactions, contracts, and litigation. That (paid) legal work includes representation of homeowner and condominium associations' boards of directors, various other non-profit organizations' boards of directors, residential real estate development companies, licensed building companies, real estate brokerages, individual homeowners, residential and commercial landlords and tenants, and both large and small manufacturing, distribution, and retail businesses. I also regularly work with municipal, county, and judicial staff and have certificates of admission to practice law before all State of Michigan district, circuit, appellate, and Supreme courts, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I hold a bachelor's degree *cum laude* in business administration from the Michigan State University Eli Broad College of Business and Honors College and a Juris Doctor *cum laude* with a Taxation Law Concentration certificate. For several of the past seven years I also taught 400-level business law courses as an adjunct professor in the Management Department of the College of Business at Ferris State University.

**Some other of my life experiences that might be beneficial to the ODWNA Board of Directors:**

My wife and I lived in Ann Arbor, MI; Brighton, MI; and Atlanta, GA before moving to the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood in 2013. We have two children who are currently 9 years old and 7 years old and attend Winchell Elementary School. My mother in-law and father in-law also live in the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood. We spend a great deal of our free time in and around the Oakland Drive-Winchell Neighborhood, including swimming, fishing, boating, and skating on Woods Lake, playing with other neighbors, friends, and relatives at the local City parks and on the playground and sports facilities at Winchell Elementary School, walking and/or biking on the neighborhood streets, frequenting the shops and restaurants in the Oakwood Plaza, and hiking at the Kleinstuck Preserve and the Asylum Lake Preserve.

As demonstrated by my attendance and involvement with the ODWNA as a Director and as Secretary for the past several years, I am available to regularly and meaningfully participate as a board member, officer, and/or committee member.