

Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Election Questionnaire

Contact information:

Christine Chadderdon



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Education: BS WMU 1972

Major: Medical Technology Minors: Biology, Chemistry

Occupation: Medical Technologist. (retired)

Employer: Bronson Hospital, (37+ years, most recently)

BOARD POSITION YOU ARE RUNNING FOR: 9

Representative of membership, open Board seat

1) What are your reasons for wanting to serve on the ODWNA Board?

From observing and talking with residents at neighborhood meetings the last several months, it has become apparent that having some new faces on the Board might be a good thing! I am running to serve the association as one of several new board applicants ready to build on the strong foundation provided by the current acting board whose leadership has served since 2012. I am grateful for the time and energy this current Board has spent in recent years; they have advocated for many good changes in our neighborhood and continue to work on problems that affect all residents. I would like to help improve communication with residents, and also work to amend our Constitution to redefine the Election process, to increase eligibility to vote, and to partially replace Board members at set intervals to encourage diversity of thought and retain continuity, among other things.

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

My greatest value, especially to this Board, is that I am a good "team player". I am a retired medical technologist, having worked primarily in clinical chemistry and hematology. From working many years in healthcare, it was always imperative that I set aside personal likes, dislikes, grievances, opinions, etc., in order to work as a team for the benefit of the patient. I would be able to work with Board members of differing opinions for the good of this neighborhood and its residents.

I can think creatively when searching for solutions to problems, and I have the ability to make and retain friendships and good working relationships with people of vastly different viewpoints.

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

I think ODWNA needs to focus on better communication with residents. There are many changes happening in the neighborhood right now, and if the City is not educating and informing residents very well, then we must do that. If we don't, this generates more resistance and less support for the goals the neighborhood and the City are trying to achieve.

We need to amend our Constitution to give all residents voting privileges. Having to "Pay To Vote" (currently \$20!) does not seem right to me, nor does it encourage participation.

I think ODWNA could use some of its funds to plan and promote neighborhood gatherings to build relationships among residents.

We can work together on Climate Change-related actions that affect all of us.

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

We certainly need to resolve the tangled-up Asylum Lake Entrance parking issue. When we strive to make improvements within our neighborhood (or anywhere) we need to retain the treasured aspects and add the improvements to those, not remove those long-held privileges to replace them with other things. Improvements need to happen in addition to good things, not instead of them!

The deer management issue is another large problem in our neighborhood, and I know ODWNA has already done much work on this complex matter and that it will be a slowly-resolved problem. We need to educate residents about the importance of NOT feeding the deer! We need to continue to work with the city and other neighborhoods to come up with an effective plan of action.

Protecting the water quality of Woods Lake by educating residents to severely limit use of fertilizers, weed killers, etc. and encouraging the planting of native plants throughout the neighborhood are other things to work on.

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

I have always tried to volunteer my time to help others in some capacity. When our children were younger I was an assistant Girl Scout leader and helped in many various ways that were connected to their interests and activities.

Osher Lifelong Learning at WMU.	Co-Chair, Committee member currently
Kalamazoo Literacy Council.	Tutor, until pandemic. (Plan to resume)
Kalamazoo Recorder Players.	Past Co-president, member 20+ years
Recorder Orchestra of the Midwest.	member, 10+ years, not currently
St. Thomas More Church.	member, 50+ years, various volunteering
Gear Geezers bicycle group.	member 9 years, steering committee 3+ years

**I was unable to participate on committees during the creation of our Neighborhood Plan, as two parents in their mid-90's with health challenges required unpredictable amounts of our care and our time. Now that I am available again, I'm looking forward to serving the neighborhood as an association board member.

6) Have you received, read, understood, and agreed to meet the criteria/expectations of an ODWNA Board member if elected?

Yes.

Signature: Christine A.Chadderdon.

Date: 23 March, 2023