

## ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday February 15, 2012

**Place:** Winchell Elementary Library

### **Board Members-**

**Present:** Barb McCrea, Co-President; Peter Kushner, Secretary; Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer, Cynthia Addison, Tom Keyser, Deb Klug

**Absent:** Larry Ross, Co-President, Pat Klein, Kathy Shook



- I. **Call to Order:** Barb McCrea, Co-President; 7:05pm
- II. **Treasurer's Report**
  - Association account balance stands at \$1,107.52
  - A request was made for members to stay current in their dues or, if not a member, to consider joining. Funds are used to: maintain our website, pay for the eNews email software, P.O. box, marketing/PR
- III. **Secretary's Report**
  - There is a link to sign up to become a dues-paying member in every eNews and on the website
- IV. **Guest Speaker:** Karen High, Landscape Architect; Wild Indigo Native and Creative Landscapes. **Topic:** Sustainable Gardens
  - Her goal is to help people who want yards and gardens to be sustainable, easy to care for, and environmentally friendly.
  - Goal to sustainability: decrease the impact on the environment and use native plants
  - Doesn't mean your yard/garden must have a "wild", unkept or "weedy" look; can be a formal or informal style
  - Checklist to Sustainability:
    - #1 - use native plants
      - Those that were here before European settlers arrived and brought their own
      - Evolved here over millennia
      - Those plants are naturally "timed" for bloom & growth for the native food chain
      - They thrive w/o fertilizer & pesticides
      - More apt to survive & thrive
      - Better for native wildlife
      - Consider sun/shade/moisture levels
    - Use the "right" plant in the "right" place
      - Consider the **mature** size/shape of the plant you use so you don't overcrowd
        - I. Consider dwarf species
        - II. Look for plants that complement each other
    - Decrease the size of your lawn
      - 1 hour of lawn mowing = 350 miles of automobile driving; environment impact-wise!
      - Lawn has no value for wildlife
      - How to best do this:
        - I. Retain lawn only where needed
        - II. Set a goal to reduce your lawn by x%
        - III. Increase your shady/wet areas
        - IV. Remove lawn around small landscape areas for ease of mowing
      - How to best maintain your lawn:
        - I. No fertilizer (top-dress with compost)
        - II. Plant native grass
        - III. Water deeply 1x/week vs. a little every day to promote deep root growth
        - IV. Leave clippings to decompose
    - Decrease your water usage
      - Use mulch (2-3"); hardwood mulch best as it's native, retains water and breaks down easier vs. cypress
      - Use rain barrels to collect rainwater for garden use
      - Use drip irrigation/soaker hoses vs. full lawn sprinklers
      - Choose native plants that need less water
      - Grow a "rain garden" – keeps water from washing away in storm sewers
    - Know your soil
      - How deep is your top soil? Need 6" for a good lawn)
      - Can build up (gradually) with thin layers of compost
      - Ph/ use organic fertilizer/compost
    - Other tips:
      - We are in the 5b "hardiness" zone
      - Plant something vs. nothing
      - Good grass barrier in mulch: 8 layers of newspaper or cardboard underneath
      - To eliminate grass (lawn) areas: smother with cardboard vs. kill with chemicals
      - Leaves – a good mulch that will breakdown in your garden (but *not* on your lawn)

- Resources:
  - Native plants- [www.MaryannsTrees.com](http://www.MaryannsTrees.com) (nursery near Paw Paw that specializes in native trees and shrubs)
  - [www.LandscapeForLife.org](http://www.LandscapeForLife.org) (info. on sustainable gardening and landscaping)

**Old Business:**

- Nominating Committee – Chris Shook, Chair. See Chris to help with the Nominating Committee. Also contact him if you would like to run for office, or have ideas regarding whom you would like to see run for office.
  - Prior to the recent Constitutional revisions, ODWNA Officers served a one year term. Consequently, all Officer positions are open for nominations (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer). Starting this May, the elected Officers will serve a two (2) year term. The five Board Members serve three year terms. This year one Board position is open for nominations.
- Ad Hoc Traffic Committee – Tom Kayser, Chair
  - The petition drive for making the intersection of Winchell and Rambling an all-way stop is continuing.
  - Other traffic concerns raised by Members include: 1) Poor cross-walk markings at the Rambling-Winchell intersection (i.e., where north bound Rambling meets Winchell pedestrians walking along Winchell have a difficult time crossing Rambling. 2) No apparent police enforcement related to the uncontrolled parking at the intersection of Aberdeen and Winchell as parents scramble to picking-up students at Winchell Elementary. Neighbors are not only concerned about student safety, but find that due to the chaotic traffic and low visibility, the intersection also presents a danger to motorists. Suggestions to help alleviate the situation include: a) the addition of a school crossing guard at the intersection (like at Broadway and Winchell); b) active police enforcement of the “no parking” zones (i.e., tickets and fines); and c) making the intersection a four-way STOP (like at Broadway and Winchell). 3) Generally poor markings for the school zone. 4) No apparent police enforcement related to speeding on Winchell, Waite, and Broadway. Neighbors are concerned that more and more vehicles are using the neighborhood streets to “cut-through”, and avoid the traffic lights at Stadium-Howard, Howard-Oakland, etc.

I. **New Business:** None

II. **Public Comments:** See Traffic Committee notes

III. **Adjournment:** 8:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Kushner, ODWNA Secretary