

## ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013

**Place:** Winchell Elementary Library

### **Board Members:**

**Present:** Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President; Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; Becky Mutsaers, Tom Keyser

**Absent:** Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer, Kathy Shook, Deb Klug, Barb McCrea.



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:05 pm
  - Welcome, old and new business and Introduction of Speaker
  - There are still openings for the Assn. Board, time investment is about 3 hours per month unless there is some project we are working on.
- II. **Treasurer's Report**
  - No report.
- III. **Secretary's Report**
  - Upcoming events:
    - May 5: Kalamazoo Marathon
    - May 15: ODWNA Car Show
- IV. **Old Business:**
  - LED Billboards – Any feedback needs to be submitted immediately. Designing the Ordinance starts the week of April 21. Public comments: [www.kalamazoobillboards.wordpress.com](http://www.kalamazoobillboards.wordpress.com) and you can also email Mark at [mhoffman@kalsec.com](mailto:mhoffman@kalsec.com) There are also two opportunities to speak on this at meetings: June 6 at the Planning Commission Meeting and July 1 at the City Commission. There is also a meeting on July 15, but the earlier you speak up with your comments, the better as the closer it gets to the end of the moratorium, the more likely decisions regarding wording, what will be allowed, etc. will already be in progress.
- V. **New Business:**
  - Car Show Planning is in full progress. Antique or Unique Entries being accepted still. Possibly having voting and trophies. Board is working on items for this like trophies, tables, a PA system, signs, food, etc.
- VI. **Public Comments:**
  - Treehaven Street needs repairs. Number to call to report potholes to the city was provided (#337-8731). This street may need more than pothole repairs.

### Notes from our Speaker:

#### **Guest Speaker : Kyle Lewis, Program Coordinator, Kalamazoo Valley River Trail**

##### **Topic:** *Kalamazoo Valley River Trail*

- Excellent Handouts and Maps and Plans were provided
  - Maps are also on [their website](#)
- Open sunrise to sunset all year
- Maintained by the County Parks Department
- Majority was built by the County Road Commission, parts by downtown areas, DNR will be assisting with building through Fort Custer
- Plans:
  - Lake to Lake Trail is 40% done (Lake Michigan to either Lake Huron or Lake St. Clair)
  - Kal Haven Trail is now connected to downtown and to River Street, also North to D Avenue through the Nature Center is connected to downtown.
  - Portage connection is probably 3 years out
- Study: A 3 year study of trail usage was conducted. People think of it as a bike trail, but only 58% of those using the trail are on bikes. Estimated usage according to study:
  - 2010: 5,000 people
  - 2011: 134,000 people
  - 2012: 155,000 people
- Spring Programs:
  - Funded by Kellogg
  - Most revolve around walking or biking
  - Outreach programs for vulnerable populations with bikes for use that concentrate on bike maintenance and safe bike riding, walks on the trail with pedometers (kids like that).
  - Story time program called "Tales on the Trail" with Larry Massie, Kalamazoo Historian
  - Interfaith Homes programs that concentrate on nutrition, dieting, etc. use the trail
- History
  - In 1991, the trail started from a volunteer group of 10 people

- There are now two main groups that manage the trail, one that works on programs and maintenance and building out the trail and one that does fundraising
  - Funding comes partly from grants
- Annual Costs
  - The last few years has been \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year, but that is expected to increase.

VII. **Adjournment:** 7:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary