ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016
Place: Winchell Elementary Library
Board Members:
  Present: Peter Kushner, President; Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; Tom Keyser, Barb Ross, Paul Scott.
  Absent: Chris Shook, Vice President; Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer; Katherine Shook

I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, 7:05 pm
   - Need for board members – applications available online or at the meeting.
   - Neighborhood Garage Sale is the last Saturday of April
   - The Board voted to support the City in applying for Commercial Rezoning of 21 parcels near Parkview and Oakland. There are three types of Commercial Zoning:
     - Commercial Community
     - Commercial Office
     - Commercial Neighborhood
   Of the three, Commercial Neighborhood is the most restrictive, and that is what the City is moving to rezone to. Spartan stores wanted to put in another gas station at the former Bacchus site. Several members of our board and neighborhood as well as other neighbors attended the Planning Commission Meeting to support the City's move to "down-zone" the parcels. The PC unanimously recommended to the City Commission to rezone. We'll see what happens.
   - **Next month, on May 18, is our 4th annual Car Show. Camzie's Pizza will have their food truck present and be selling pizza. We will have classic cars and classic motorcycles. People's vote determines the winners of the trophies. Parking of cars and motorcycles starts at 6:00pm, the show starts at 7:00pm.**

II. **Treasurer's Report –** none

III. **Secretary's Report**
   - Anyone with ideas or thoughts on 2016-17 Speaker Series speakers can contact the board via our email address on our website.

IV. **Neighborhood Business (Old and New):**
   - New Business: The City of Kalamazoo is considering approving Consumers Energy trimming and/or removing all trees on the east of Broadway from Parkview to the north end of Broadway up to Crosswinds. CE is also asking affected residents for an easement for another 30 feet. It's a lifetime easement. They plan to remove all trees, brush, etc. in order to install upgraded power lines, poles and conductors. Also, along Parkview on the north side of the street to Oakland, a 47 foot easement. For Parkview, in addition to concern about losing trees and other plants that homeowners have invested money and time to plant, there is also concern about slope deterioration and noise. This could have a negative impact on property values. Several people showed up with concerns about this. Pete suggested that the board could check with the City, and also check with other neighborhoods to see if any other neighborhoods have experience with this. A list was sent around the room for those concerned who wanted to share email addresses in order to organize and communicate with each other.

V. **Public Comments:** none

   Notes from our Speakers:

   Guest Speakers: Michael Spezia, Executive Director, Gilmore Car Museum

   - The Gilmore Car Museum has been rated the fifth best car museum in the country.
   - The Museum was started by Donald Gilmore and his wife Genevieve. Donald was CEO/Chairman of Upjohn. They were very active in Kalamazoo on many fronts. They started the KIA and the Community Foundation, but the Gilmore Car Museum is the only thing with their name on it.
   - They built an electric Model T.
   - They bought a Pierce-Arrow in 1966, and started really developing more interest in cars.
   - Donald was really interested in architecture as well, especially the architecture of old barns, and he loved trains.

- 50 years ago this year, the Gilmore Car Museum opened.
- Gilmore had a place in Palm Springs, California and was friends and neighbors there with Walt Disney. Disney donated a movie set to the Museum, and in return, Gilmore installed an Upjohn pharmacy at Disneyland, the only such courtesy Disney ever extended to a drug company.
- Our own Tom Keyser was instrumental in building a Shell Gas Station on the Museum property, which is a replica of an old gas station in Sherwood.
- There is a Diner that is a replica of a 1941 Diner in Connecticut.
- The Museum has an interesting business model, with several independent museums on a 90 acre campus. Among these are the Duesenberg, Packard, Pierce-Arrow, Franklin, Model A Ford, Cadillac and Lincoln.
- Pure Michigan rates the Gilmore Car Museum the #1 Great Historic Auto Site in Michigan.
- The Museum is a 501 c 3 nonprofit, so kids/schools come to the museum for free.
- They sponsor 18 car events.
- Their job is to tell historic stories.
- You can drive a Model T at the Model T Driving School.
- The Museum has a simulated car for distracted driving.
- Gilmore Garage Works is a program for kids at risk of dropping out of school. Kids are referred via a school counselor, and the program connects kids with mentors. The mentors are not allowed to work on any cars, but the kids work on donated cars, including engines and bodies. Once restored, the cars go on display.
- An 1886 (Mercedes) Benz built by Karl Benz was supposed to be a motorcycle, and that was the very first car. So the first car was not really built by Henry Ford.
- At one time, there were more electric cars than gas. We really should have stayed with steam though.
- The Museum has 3 Checker Cabs, one from 1934, one from 1927 and one from 1982 that were donated. They also pulled stuff from the Plant and from files from the owner's basement.
- Q&A:
  - Do you try to keep them running?
    - There are two point of view:
      - Drain fluids, keep them up on blocks and don't touch them.
      - Maintain them, keep them running.
        - This is the Museum's view, and they use aviation fuel in all of the cars.
  - What happens on Sundays?
    - Sunday Lecture Series – the Website has all of the details. GilmoreCarMuseum.org
  - How much is admission?
    - $13.00
- Lastly, they have two restaurants and a liquor license and they generate 60-65% of their income themselves, which is unusual for a nonprofit.

VI. **Adjournment:** 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary