

ODWNA Neighborhood Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday September 19, 2012

Place: Winchell Elementary Library

Board Members:

Present: Peter Kushner, President; Chris Shook, Vice President
Sandy Bolstad, Secretary; Becky Mutsaers, Barb McCrea

Absent: Diana Morton-Thompson, Treasurer, Tom Keyser, Deb Klug, Kathy Shook



- I. **Call to Order:** Peter Kushner, President; 7:05pm
 - Welcome to first meeting of the year.
 - Introduction of new board members and contact information.
- II. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Association account balance
 - Member and Dues Drive in October, there is a link to sign up to become a dues-paying member in every eNews and on the website.
- III. **Secretary's Report:** First meeting of the year. Nothing to report.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 - Stop sign update. Currently a new stop sign in place on East Bound Winchell at Rambling. It is there on a 6 month trial while the city re-evaluates the configuration at that corner and decides if it should stay or not.
- V. **New Business:**
 - Woods Lake: A meeting was held with the Lake Association, Friends of Woods Lake, Oakwood Neighborhood Association and Kalamazoo Public Safety to raise awareness of some of the undesirable activities taking place around the lake and find out what can be done to prevent such activities. Future plans were also discussed. The City Park at Woods Lake will be closed next summer as much of the area there will be under construction. New bathrooms, docks, picnic areas, trails, etc. are being created. If any undesirable activities are observed at the lake, the public is encouraged to call Public Safety and report it. You may request the call be kept anonymous if desired. Camping, fires, alcohol, etc. are prohibited at Woods Lake.
- VI. **Public Comments:**
 - Concern was expressed that a left turn arrow would be nice at Stadium and Rambling. Stadium is operated by MDOT. MDOT was contacted and a study is underway.
- VII. **Guest Speakers:** Ben Yost, ISA Certified Arborist, Farm N Garden, PNWISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor, MSU graduate in IAT Landscape Management, Author of Turf Grass Core Curriculum for MSU Extension Master Gardener Program

Topic: Suburban Care of Trees and Shrubs

Ben provided a very nice folder with a notepad and handout "Trees and Shrub Care Criteria in Landscapes". Each of the criteria had key words that should be thought of as questions. In addition to the criteria on the handout, below are some highlights. It should be noted that many drawings were used to explain things that I would not attempt to replicate here.

- Selection
 - What purpose do you want this tree to serve?
 - When you think of tree size, think of now, and in 10 to 15 years, and at full maturity;
 - Growth rate vs. lifespan.
 - Natural adaptation: Do you live in an area of upland soil or lowland soil? This speaks to moisture available.
 - Flowering: do you want fall color?
 - Tolerance: Disease resistance, weather resistance, roots systems. Maples, for instance do not tolerate restricted root systems. They also fall apart easily during storms. The unusual weather this year caused many tree issues, especially with the Sycamores and Maples. Many of the curb lawn trees, such as Ash and Maples now have the big orange X on them which means they are possibly getting cut down.
- Sourcing
 - Locally grown will last better, but it needs to be a tree that thrives in YOUR ZONE. We live near a few different zones, so you have to be careful.
 - With container plants, check out the roots. White roots all around are good, brown roots are bad.
- Planting
 - Roots on trees should go out, not down.
- Pruning
 - What is your reason for pruning? Reduction, Thinning, Restorative, Structural, Cleaning
 - Be careful of root cuts when putting in a patio or new construction. A 3 inch root getting cut on most trees is a BAD thing for the tree.
 - Plants make their own food. If you prune too much, they starve to death.
 - Pruning wounds bigger than 4 to 5 inches will cause too much oxygen to get in and then the tree gets wood decay fungus.

- If you have fruited wood decay this time of year that tree is at risk for failure.
- For plants, prune 1/3 of the stems at the base each year. Prune flowering plants right after they flower.
- Prune trees in the growing season (late spring to midsummer). The exception to this is Oak Trees. Do not prune Oaks during growing season, you will cause disease.
- Young tree pruning takes one or two cuts and saves hundreds of dollars later.
- When reducing a branch, prune it TO a (side) branch that is one-third the diameter of the branch you are removing.
- Branches and trees, the main part, are not necessarily as interconnected as they appear. There is a natural feature inside that segments them in an effort to protect against wood decay.
- Tree Roots are surprising. Take the diameter of the tree in inches and multiply by 1.5. That is how many feet the roots travel outward. So a 30 inch diameter tree has roots that travel 45 feet.
- Fertilization
 - Trees and shrubs do not need to be fertilized often. Only when very young (the first couple of years) or if they show a need (appear unhealthy).
- Diagnosis and Treatment
 - Cultural control should be the first line of defense before chemicals.
- Tree Risk Assessment
 - This is the trickiest area, and filled with liability, for both the homeowner and the tree removal company.
 - The only safe tree is a tree on the ground (and then it's a tripping hazard).
- Supplemental Tree Support
 - Staking inhibits trees for the most part. It does not help them. It is especially not good for trying to straighten out a tree that was not planted right. If you are going to stake a tree try to use stakes that will rot away so the tree can grow into being self-supporting.
- Construction Site Tree Preservation
 - Often not performed. Sickens the arborist.
- Removal
 - If you hire tree removal done, make sure they are insured. The normal range for tree removal can be anywhere from \$800 – 3000. Very dangerous activity. 33% of tree removal deaths are due to electrocution.

VIII. **Adjournment:** 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Bolstad, ODWNA Secretary