



Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods Alliance Meeting Notes

October 10, 2022, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Oshkosh Seniors Center

Neighborhoods Represented: Menominee South (Cynthia Thorpe), Millers Bay (Reni Lynch), Green Acres (Zach Fritschel), Stevens Park (Renne and Larry Lautenschlager), Historic Jackson (Shirley Brabender Mattox), Midtown (Alana Erickson), Sawyer-Paine (Vicki Schorse), Congress Field (Dawn McKone), and Bent Woods (Steve and Mary Jo Vanderloop)

City Representatives: Anne Schafer and Brandon Nielsen

Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods Staff: Reni Lynch (Board Member), Tom Fojtik, Lauren Carew, and Cora Strand

Neighborhoods Not Represented: Ferry Crossing, Fox Chase, Lumber River, Mariana District, Menominee South, Middle Village, River East, Sacred Heart, and Historic 4th Ward

Welcome and Announcements (Cora Strand, Neighborhood Coordinator): After introductions, we shared two announcements. First, please send your volunteer hours to Lauren (lauren@gohni.org)! Second, there is a community event called "What's in a Name". This local history event is a celebration of Oshkosh's historical significance and is put on by Oshkosh North high school students. The event is a free open house that is open to the public on October 12th from 7:45 am-9:30 am at The Waters. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please contact us!

City Staff (Brandon Nielson, City Planner): One of the many things that Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods supplies, are welcome bags. Many neighbors find it difficult to learn who is new to a neighborhood, but Brandon can help! If you are interested in receiving a list of new neighbors in your neighborhood association, contact Brandon (BNielson@ci.oshkosh.wi.us)! If you are interested in receiving welcome bags, contact Lauren (lauren@gohni.org)! We also encourage you to personalize/customize your welcome bags however you would like. Some examples were a bow in the winter, seeds in the spring, and neighborhood-specific information.

Neighborhood Heartwarming Stories: To start our discussion of neighborhood heartwarming stories, Tom shared one of his most memorable moments. When he first started working at Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods, he went to a Stevens Park meeting with a good turnout. After the meeting, Tom had a conversation with a man who explained that moving to Oshkosh was the best decision of his life. Next, Reni and Larry shared one of their stories. In Stevens Park, there is a man who greets neighbors from his porch and has coined the nickname “Mayor of Eveline Street”. He is always on his porch smiling and spreading happiness in his neighborhood. Stevens Park also participates in Hands on Oshkosh in the spring and fall. At these events, students from UW Oshkosh volunteer to help out and clean up the park. College students are always hard-working and help make a difference. Lastly, the dog walkers in Stevens Park who pick up the garbage as they walk are a huge help to the neighborhood.

In the Sawyer-Paine neighborhood, Val Williams has also been an influential neighbor. She would attend all leadership meetings, share her garden with neighbors, and allow neighbors to cross through her yard while there was street construction. She is also a part of the historical group to build neighborliness and is described as the heart of her neighborhood. The Sawyer-Paine neighborhood also has neighbors who shovel in the winter and mow lawns in the summer for those who need help.

Thank you to those who shared their stories and we are always excited to hear more! If you have a heartwarming story that you would like to share, please email Cora (cora@gohni.org). We would love to use these stories to help spread well throughout our community!

Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods (Tom Fojtik, Executive Director, and Cora Strand, Neighborhood Coordinator): Our Hey, Neighbor! newsletter will be coming out this week and will be available on our website. Make sure to check Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods social media for updates! We are happy to announce that 42 Good Neighbor Grants were awarded this year. If you have not turned in your receipts and before/after pictures, please do so. It is always good to be aware of how much you have in your neighborhood bank account, so if you are interested in learning more about your CB&E remaining funds, please email Cora (cora@gohni.org). We are also excited to announce that Historic 6th Ward is our newest neighborhood association! They are located on the south side of Oshkosh and had a great turnout for their first meeting. Lastly, we want to share a great neighborhood opportunity. Service Saturday (Hands-On Oshkosh) is on October 15th and they are looking for neighborhoods to serve. They are partnered with Stevens Park and River East to help with landscaping, harvesting, raking, and many other service jobs. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Cora (cora@gohni.org).

End of Meeting