



## **Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods Alliance Meeting Notes**

June 12th, 2023, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Oshkosh Senior Center

**Neighborhoods Represented:** River East (Gary & Carmen Scott) Millers Bay (Reni Lynch & Polly Kimball) Historic 6th Ward (Tim Ernst & Paulette Field) Sacred Heart (Barb & Tim Macho) Menominee South (Cynthia Thorpe) Historic Fourth Ward (Sara Russell) Green Acres (Erica Payton & Emille Wurzbach) Bent Woods (James Karoses), Historic Jackson (Shirley Mattox)

**City Representatives:** Anne Schafer and Brandon Nielsen

**Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods Staff:** Reni Lynch (Board Member), Tom Fojtik, Emma Jansky, and Cora Strand

**Neighborhoods Not Represented:** Ferry Crossing, Fox Chase, Lumber River, Marina District, Middle Village, Sawyer-Paine, Stevens Park, and Midtown, Menominee North, Stevens Park, Sawyer Paine, Congress Field

### **Welcome and Announcements (Cora Strand, Neighborhood Coordinator):**

Cora Strand started introductions by having neighborhood representatives say their name and neighborhood associations. She explained after how we are trying to start a new neighborhood on the west side of Oshkosh. She then went on to touch on Food Truck Friday and expressed how smoothly it went. Cora also suggested that neighborhoods attend and get involved in this event. Cora then introduced city representative Anne Schafer ([aschaefer@ci.oshkosh.wi.us](mailto:aschaefer@ci.oshkosh.wi.us)), who explained how easy it is to get a food truck involved in a neighborhood event. Questions were asked about permits. Cora suggested that people email Kathy Snell directly if they have questions regarding permits. Anne also informed representatives about a new fire safety law within food trucks. Finally, Cora provided an update on CB&E dollars and urged representatives to ask questions about how those funds can be used in your neighborhoods.

### **Guest Speaker (Amanda Runge)**

Amanda described her role in working with older citizens and people with disabilities. She shared that the County Health Department is piloting a program where high school-age volunteers help these residents with fall yard work. They want to reach 25 homeowners this fall. She asked representatives if this would be of interest to people living in neighborhood associations. The response was positive. Anne Schaefer added that this is an idea from Shorewood (near Milwaukee) and described how well the program has been received in that community. Alliance members agreed to promote the program in their neighborhoods. Amanda will follow up later in the summer to get a list of names and addresses.

### **City Updates (Anne Schaefer, Branson Nielson, Emma Dziengeleski):**

Brandon Nielson reminded everyone about the Great Neighborhoods program, and that applications are due this Friday 6/15. Questions were asked about the parks getting involved in this program. He shared the nature of a couple of proposals they have received so far, and encouraged Alliance members to reach out to him with questions.

### **Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods (Cora):**

Cora asked which neighborhoods are participating in Neighborhood Night Out and what they have planned for the event.

- River East described they are going to be at Copper Hall and will have a Food Truck and give everyone a free meal, with police and the fire department reps in attendance.
- Millers Bay is doing an ice cream Sundae program, with ice cream and toppings.
- Sacred Heart is trying to get a band, as well as food, and reps from the police and fire department.
- Historic 6th Ward is working on some ideas for activities along the riverwalk located in their neighborhood.

If more events get planned, let us know so we can publicize them!

### **Operations Coordinator (Emma):**

Emma reminded everyone that they can receive welcome bags at any time upon request, and also that the volunteer quarterly hours are ending this month and that she will take those at any time as well. Finally Emma introduced a new way to track volunteer hours that might be easier for some members than the current system.

### **OHN (Tom)**

Tom started by announcing the first annual OHN Fall Event, which is being held at the Lakeshore Pavilion on Thursday, October 19. He turned the floor over to Reni Lynch and Cora, both of whom are deeply involved in the planning process. Reni described it as a program of recognizing the heroes in our Neighborhoods, and outlined the awards

that will be given out to deserving winners. There will be four awards:

1. Good Neighbor Hero Award
2. Neighborhood Volunteer Award
3. Neighborhood Support Hero Award
4. Neighborhood Youth Hero Award

Nominations will be due on October 1st. We will get the forms out as soon as they are ready. Members of the Alliance group will be asked to help determine the winners.

Cora talked about our catering service and beverage ideas for the event.

Tom Fojtik then gave a shout out to Cora and Jessie Meidl for getting Sacred Heart neighborhoods back on track and regenerating their neighborhood association. He then spoke about Rock the Block and how helpful it is to neighborhoods and getting neighbors engaged. He suggested neighborhoods should start thinking if they want their neighborhood involved in Rock the Block 2024. If interested, please contact Tom at [tom@gohni.org](mailto:tom@gohni.org). Finally, Tom provided an update on the Good Neighbor Grants; we have received 82 applications and have approved 56. We are budgeted for 50, so are working on ways to fund additional grants.

**End of Meeting 7:15pm**