



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

August 12th, 2024 6:00-7:00 pm at Oshkosh Senior Center

**Neighborhoods represented:** Historic 6th Ward (Tim Ernst and Paulette Feld), Bent Woods (Steve and Mary Jo VanderLoop), Green Acres (Steve and Sandy Abler), Quarry Park (Connie Drexler and Lori Buskirk), Menominee South (Cynthia Thorpe), Millers Bay (Reni Lynch and Polly Kimball), Sacred Heart (Nancy Gruen (?)), Midtown (Betsy Kunde), River East (Carmen and Gary Scott, and Kathy Webb), Lumber River (Robert Gluth), Fox Chase (Susan Matz), and Sawyer Creek (Mary DiAngelo), Stevens Park (Ron Hansche)

**City staff:** Emma Dziengeleski, Emily Tardiff and Anne Schaefer

**OHN Staff:** Cora Strand and Tom Fojtik

### **Announcements (Tom Fojtik):**

**National Night Out Experiences:** Attendees shared their experiences from National Night Out, with many reporting record attendance. There was some confusion regarding the event's coordination; it is organized by the Police and Fire Departments, and all city ordinances are handled by Kathy Snell.

**Rock the Block Oshkosh 2025:** The event has been officially announced for the Historic 6th Ward. Paulette expressed her excitement and provided information about the event during National Night Out.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **Pups on the Runway:** Thursday, 9/12 at Becketts. This event supports Phoenix, the therapy dog for the Day by Day Shelter. We are a small sponsor.
- **Christine Ann Art Contest and Dragon Boat Festival:** Both events are on Saturday, 9/14. Again we are a small sponsor for the Dragon Boat Festival.



- **Menominee Park Zoo:** The zoo is seeking volunteers—a great opportunity to get involved in the community.

**Guest Speaker (Ashley Beattie-Lokken):** Ashley Beattie-Lokken, an Oshkosh Community Health Worker, discussed the Winnebago County Health Department’s classes focused on preventing falls among seniors. These classes include Tai Chi, weight lifting, and stretching. Falling is the most common reason for police calls, so if you know someone who could benefit, please reach out. Anne Schafer also mentioned the “Leaf No One Behind” event and is looking for individuals to participate.

**City of Oshkosh (Emma Dziengeleski):** The next neighborhood plan will focus on Sacred Heart, and the group is eager to begin. Emma also provided a Great Neighborhoods update: five neighborhoods (River East, Steven’s Park, Quarry Park, Historic Jackson, and Menominee South) applied for funding. Volunteers are needed to score these applications—an excellent way to understand the approval process.

**Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods (Tom Fojtik):** Tom shared a Good Neighbor Grant update: 13 grants have been paid out this year, with 41 accepted. Work must be completed by December 1st for those struggling with contractors. A grant nominee will be honored at the Neighborhood Hero Event for their outstanding property improvements. Welcome Bags have reached 127—contact Emma if you need more. Cora provided an update on the Fall Event, scheduled for October 17th from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Gibson Social Club. Alliance members can register for \$25 per person, which includes dinner. The Neighborhood Hero nomination is open until September 1st.

The meeting ended at 7:00p.m. Thank you to our guest speaker Ashley for the evening!