



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

January 13th, 2025 6:00-7:00 pm at Oshkosh Senior Center

**Neighborhoods represented:** Historic 6th Ward (Tim Ernst and Paulette Feld), Bent Woods (Steve and Mary VanderLoop), Menominee South (Cynthia Thorpe), Menominee North (Dee Walter), Green Acres (Zach Fritschel), Quarry Park (Connie Drexler, Kirsten Langkau and Lori Buskirk), Millers Bay (Reni Lynch), Sacred Heart (Tom Fritz, Tim Macho), River East (Gary Scott and Carmen Leal), Sawyer Creek (Mary DiAngelo), Stevens Park (Ron Hanche), Lumber River (Rob Gluth)

**City Staff:** Emma Dziengeleski, Brandon Nielsen and Anne Schaefer

**OHN Staff:** Elizabeth Last, Cora Strand, and Tom Fojtik

**OHN Board:** Art Rathjen, Mike Selner, and Reni Lynch

### **Announcements (Cora Strand):**

Cora began the meeting by discussing volunteer hours. Neighborhood volunteer hours for the fourth quarter of 2024 are now due. If you haven't already submitted them, please send them to Cora, who is handling this quarter's collection in place of Emma, as she is unavailable for the month of January.

We also celebrated an incredible accomplishment: 160 welcome bags were distributed this year, surpassing our goal of 100! A big thank you to all the neighbors who have helped welcome new residents into their communities—it truly makes a difference to feel greeted and included in a new neighborhood.

If you have any pending reimbursement requests for CB&E dollars for 2024, please reach out to Cora so we can close those accounts for the year. Moving forward, all CB&E funding requests will be processed from the 2025 accounts.

Finally, we're working to finalize the 2025 Alliance Calendar for speakers and presenters. If you have any topics or speakers you'd like us to include, please share your suggestions so we can ensure the calendar reflects your interests and provides valuable resources.



**City of Oshkosh (Anne Schafer):**

Anne shared a public event titled "Bridging Past and Present: Exploring Native American Cultural Heritage" taking place at the Oshkosh Convention Center in Wisconsin on Sunday, February 23 at 2 PM.

The event is part of a series of workshops and lectures focused on understanding the region's indigenous communities. It will feature discussions about recent archaeological work at Menominee Park and include presentations from Native American artists about their cultural heritage.

The event is free to attend, will include light refreshments, and requires registration through the Oshkosh Senior Services website. Anne Schaefer is the contact person for any questions!

**2024 Annual Report (Cora Strand):**

We are in the process of finalizing our Annual Report for this year and are seeking information from neighborhoods to include. Specifically, we'd like neighborhoods to share the total number of events planned this year, including regular meetings.

We're also looking for highlights of special events—particularly new initiatives or activities that were introduced this year—and lots of photos! If you have pictures from any events, please send them our way. Visual aids are essential for the report, so don't hesitate to share everything you have.

**Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods (Tom Fojtik):**

Tom shared an update with the group about his transition and officially welcomed our new Executive Director, Elizabeth Last. Elizabeth introduced herself and expressed her excitement about joining the organization. We are thrilled to welcome her aboard starting February 3rd!

Tom also surprised staff member Cora with a thoughtful goodbye basket from the board, lovingly put together by Tom and Emma, as a token of appreciation for her contributions to the organization. The group listened to a heartfelt thank-you speech from Tom, leaving many hearts warmed that evening.

The meeting ended at 6:45p.m. Thank you all who attended the meeting!