

# Minutes

## **Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Sign in:** Jim Moreno, Sherry Moreno, Dave Johnston, Andrea Greer, Brad Greer, Buck Buchholz, Elizabeth Williams, Rick Romeo, Morgan Conn, Charlie Conn, Katie Boyd, Larry Davey, Joel Van Roekel, Josh Raleigh, Sergeant Ripperger

### **Dave - Updates to Web site**

- Polk County and City of Des Moines Services
- Shopping centers
- DSM City schools and parks in the area
- Contacts for WHNA support staff

### **Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:**

- Offices are still closed
- COVID impacting events and parks and rec activities have been delayed
- All shelters reduced to 15-person capacity limit
- Program guide is still on hold and won't be published until they know more detail on COVID restrictions
- Brenton skating plaza scheduled to open this week with reserved time slots
  - Greenwood and MacRae park allow ice skating on the pond based on ice condition (red/green safety flags)
- Rick Romero advised the line that goes into the cabin for the heater at Ewing park has a leak. Joel advised he will escalate concern

### **Josh Raleigh- Inspector:**

- Josh Provided current status on blight homes in our area
- 211 Leach
  - Sent to contractor for bid on removal
  - Will be the first to be removed
- 325 Leach
  - Final court order filed 11/18/2020
  - Owner has 30 days to respond
  - Owner hasn't responded to previous communications
- 4th inspector has been brought on to assist with Blitz on Blight
- COVID has affected cleanups and presence in the neighborhood by support staff as well as more time for extension requests
  - Focused on more severe issues but junk and debris complaints are still being reviewed as reported
- 1 more scrub day this Saturday 7-2 at the Delaware location
- Make sure debris is not out on curb prior to your trash day and recommends to put the tag on day of trash day
- Continue to bring known issues to Dave and Josh with address and detail

### **Sergeant Ripperger- Crime Report:**

- Crime report in the last 30 days
  - 2 burglaries
    - 1 criminal mischief and the person was arrested

- Home being remodeled. Door forced open but nothing was taken out of the home
  - 1 aggravated assault
    - Domestic with arrest made
  - 1 larceny
    - unlocked truck and tools stolen
  - 2 motor vehicle thefts
    - 1st found in our area, stolen from Omaha
    - 2nd incident driver left car downtown and lost where it was parked. Car was located by driver
- This time last year
  - 2 incidents this time last year
- Dave requested to see if we could get the crime report or the proposed new section
  - Sergeant advised that we will research and see if they can get this added to our boundaries

#### **Dave Johnston – Current and Proposed WHNA By-Laws**

- Intro provided to members in attendance
- Board needs to review the proposed by-laws on the WHNA website and provide any feedback to Dave
- Vote to approve by Neighbors at Zoom Meeting Wednesday December 16th 2020

#### **Dave Johnston – Limited Number of Incentive Offers to Register with DSM Camera Program**

- If you have a security camera or cameras around your home and have NOT YET registered with this City Police program, please contact Dave Johnston at (515) 287-1976 for more detailed information
- The incentive is \$25.00 and the registration is simple
- In the last week we added two new homes on the registration program
- Six more incentives approved as part of this test program
- Incentive is on a first come basis only available for 1 more week
- WHNA goal is to find private funding sources to make this an ongoing incentive program for our WHNA in the future
- Limited Number of Incentive Offers to Register with DSM Camera Program

#### **Dave Johnston – WHNA Annual Holiday Lighting Contest**

- The prize money for this year will be 1st prize = \$100.00; 2nd prize = \$75.00; and 3rd prize = \$50.00
- Prizes are awarded with HyVee Gift Cards presented on Christmas
- Will also be presented with an award certificate and will display a WHNA Yard Sign showing your decorations were a prize winner
- WHNA is adding a new feature once you enter the contest, we will register your address in a database drive-by list (Optional)
- Andrea Greer proposed adding a section to the Web site for board members who decorate. If board members want their house on the drive by list provide it to Dave

#### **WHNA – Neighbors Comments/Suggestions for future.**

- Elizabeth Williams – Make sure to like posts on the public WHNA page to get more visibility