

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Sunday October 18th, 2020

Sign in: Jim Moreno, Sherry Moreno, Dave Johnston, Andrea Greer, Brad Greer, Tammy Berenguel, Becky Dewey, Ricardo Corona, Buck Buchholz, Elizabeth Williams

Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:

- Joel not in attendance

Josh Raleigh- Inspector:

- Josh was unable to attend
- Dave presented updates on blight homes in the area (provided to him by Josh prior to the meeting)
 - 211 and 325 Leach Ave
 - Court order on structures to be removed by property owner by 10/21/2020
 - If no response from the owners, court order from the city to remove the structure will be initiated and takes 30 days
- If you locate a property and or recent vacancy, please alert Josh and Dave

Sergeant Ripperger- Crime Report:

- Sergeant Lance Ripperger is not available to attend
- Crime report in the last 30 days
 - 806 Rose Ave- Motor vehicle theft
 - 4601 SW 5th St- Burglary
 - 4611 SW 9th St - Motor Vehicle theft
- This time last year
 - Not provided for this meeting

Dave Johnston – Introduction to Neighbors of Ricardo and Maria Corona:

- New neighbors both are Spanish Bilinguals and have agreed to be Liaison Officers for our WHNA Latino Neighbors when needed
 - Dave will work with Ricardo and Maria Corona to send letters.
 - Been working with Latino community for a few years
 - Maria is from Ecuador and moved to New Jersey at age 11, coming to Iowa for school. She attended Iowa State, and is currently working on her PHD
 - Ricardo was born in the United States raised in California. Moved to Iowa for school, attending Iowa State, before moving to Des Moines
 - Reached out to Dave as they new there was a need for outreach to the Latino community in the WHNA

Dave Johnston – Status update for WHNA Special Programs:

- Dave is looking to make the zoom meeting invite easier to use. Dave will research but if anyone has ideas please let him know
- Hand-Delivery of Absentee Ballots
 - Please let Dave know if anyone is interested
 - Available for 1 more week

- Limited Number of Incentive Offers to Register with DSM Camera Program
 - Please make sure anyone who is interested received verification to get the credit
 - Need to make sure that any interested parties respond as soon as possible
 - Goal is to get outside funding sources to support the program and increase coverage as this will not be approved through the community betterment grant
- Dog walking social club
 - Group will meet at a parking lot at South Union School
 - Walk dogs 1 to 2 days a week
 - Avenue to obtain emails for the WHNA contact list
 - Need to look into waiver forms
 - Looking to get that completed within a week or 2
- 3rd annual WHNA holiday lighting contest – plus drive-by list
 - Same prize money as last year (100.00/75.00/50.00)
 - Will have the contest entries provide approval to be added to the drive by list, as well as provide a picture of their entry. With the exception of entries that don't have the capability to submit a picture and the WHNA will come take it.
 - Pictures will be posted to the WHNA web site or added to a drive by list
 - WHNA will look into extending the contest for Halloween and other d going decorating occasions forward

Dave Johnston– STATUS UPDATE for WHNA Needs:

- Locate/Establish CPA services
 - Faller and Kincheloe & CO is the company Dave contacted
 - CPA recommended that WHNA waits to retain CPA till its required
 - Unlikely that we will need CPA services in the near future
- Locate WHNA neighbor photographer
 - Please let Dave know if anyone has a contact or someone who can take quality photos
- Implement blight home attack program
 - WHNA will continue to monitor blight homes and if the city doesn't get them torn down timely, we will contact neighbors to send letters to Joe Gatto to expedite the removal
- Create and implement WHNA newcomer welcome package
 - Tammy B and Becky Dewy met last week
 - Need a list of numbers that need to be included in the letter
 - Will provide a link for neighbors to contact the committee including the WHNA website
 - Query ran and 28 sales since July 1st
 - Only 2 people have signed up for homestead and recommended letters only being sent to homestead filers
 - Committee will continue to discuss the best time to identify the best time so send the mailings
 - Discussed addition to out web site with a choice to provide their email for updates with the No thanks option

Dave Johnston – Neighbors Comments/Suggestions for future. / Close Zoom Meeting:

- Trunk or Treat
 - Wendy's parking lot
 - Hand out prepackaged candy and water donated from Kum & Go
 - 6-8 Friday night October 30th
 - Total cost would be 0

- Becky will email the board and let us know once final approval is received
 - Event will be added to the web site and Facebook Page
- Discussed potential sign updates
 - Look to see if we can update the signs to cover zoom meetings to engage additional attendees
 - Dave also suggested making signs for the drive by entrees for the decoration locations
 - More to come on potential sign updates