

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Wednesday February 10th, 2021

Sign in: Dave Johnston, Andrea Greer, Brad Greer, Elizabeth Williams, Becky Dewey, Tammy Berenguel, Joel Van Roekel, Joe Gatto, Scott Baker, Scott Clauson, Nola Davis, Buck Buchholz

Joe Gatto- City Council

- Sales Tax Leavy approved and max level will stay the same
- Nothing cut out of the budget for 2021 projects
- Additional funding for parks approved
- Blitz on blight will continue

Joel Van Roekel- Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer

- Office closure extended another month
- 31 miles your way and more program registration now open. Cost is 10 dollars and runs through the end of March
- Hiring summer staff for the pools
- Discussions of budget for 3 to 4 new playgrounds or splash pads per year

Guest Speaker –Nola Aigner Davis Public Health Communication Officer with the Polk County Health Department

- Nola presented slide show discussing:
 - COVID-19 vaccine and available options
 - Information on vaccine creation and safety concerns
 - Who should get vaccinated?
 - Preventative measures to stop the spread such as masks, social distancing, crowd avoidance etc.
- Nola addressed questions from the group
 - Best way to make contact for status/scheduling for the vaccine- Amount of vaccine is low and hard to meet the demands. She recommended to continue trying to make contact and follow up but demand is high with a short supply
 - Dave requested links to the Polk county health department with information discussed and will add link to the WHNA page

Josh Raleigh- Inspector:

- Josh provided current status on blight homes in our area
- 211 Leach
 - Demo up for bid
 - Could take a up to a month for bids to come in
- 325 Leach
 - Demo up for bid
 - Could take a up to a month for bids to come in
- Garage next to 4110 lot is next on the list for public nuisance
- Outside legal team has been brought in to speed up blitz on blight legal process
- Dave discussed steps made to add the new quarter section

- City was to send notice but was unable to due to COVID
- City advised we can proceed how we want to but officially isn't officially added to our section
 - Dave requested section be added to updates if possible
- Josh advised he will follow up to add section to the report and or what he can do to help assist the addition
- Hired additional zoning employees to assist with new exterior property maintenance code
 - Scott Clausen introduced during call
 - 1 of 4 new employees handling public nuisances
 - Previously in law enforcement
 - Josh is still the contact for neighborhood reporting

Scott Baker - Crime Report

- Crime report in the last 30 days
 - 1 burglary 200 block of Phillip
 - 1 motor vehicle theft 300 block Hughes
 - Be cautious warming up vehicles during the cold weather
 - taking 4 to 5 motor vehicle thefts per day around the city
- Feel free to call in parked vehicles in the streets for more than 24 hours to eliminate snow removal issues
- Sarge should be back to normal schedule by next meeting

Meeting Adjourned 7:10pm