

# Minutes

## Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Rec:

- Update on MacRae Park work
  - Outlook is on schedule and deadline to be out Nov. 2019
  - Outlook done and soft opening June 2019
  - Road work will be done at this time as well
  - Provided booklet with upcoming events to pass out
- Grays Lake is closed for paving
  - With good weather may be open early

**Comment [A1]:** This is conflicting with the prior statement

### Featured Guest Randy Ripperger - Polk County Assessor

- Deadline to appeal has been extended until June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Property value is based on wealth by the value of the property
- Tax calculation
  - $[\text{Assessed value} \times \text{Rollback percent (Taxable Value)}] \times \text{Tax Rate}$   
(Gross Tax)
- Things we can do:
  - Get involved in budget process and meetings
  - Des Moines Register publishes meetings
  - Meetings are usually held during the work day
  - Watch the Register February or March
- 5 Grounds for protesting
  - Assessment not equitable for surrounding properties
  - Property is assessed at more than actual value
  - Property is exempt or misclassified
  - There is an error in the assessment
  - Fraud or misconduct in the assessment
- If protest is denied you have 20 days to appeal
- Tips:
  - Get on assessor website to help build the case
  - Tools:
    - Polk County Assessor Iowa (Google)
    - Investigate your assessment

- Multiple tool options
- Look at comparable properties
  - First step from the board is to review
  - Can be a Brokers price opinion
- Joe Gatto discussed lowering levy rate to .60 cents for 2020 budget
- Conversations will be had to look at lowering levy rate with higher assessment

### **Sarge Lance Ripperger - Crime Report**

- Last 30 days - 7 total
  - 3 burglaries
  - 1 aggravated assault
  - 1 larceny
  - 1 motor vehicle theft
  - 1 robbery
- 2018 total - 8 (Down 1 event from last year)

### **Joshua Raleigh - Neighborhood Inspector:**

- Continued work on the blight houses
  - SW 8th was turned over a month and a half ago
  - 3622 SW 6<sup>th</sup> has been sold and is being remodeled
  - 4612 has been bought and turning into a rental
    - Notice given to get stuff removed out of the yard
    - Notice will go out to get debris removed
    - Requesting garage door or board put back up on the garage
  - 3605 & 3609 SW 9<sup>th</sup>
    - SW 9<sup>th</sup> LLC owns the properties
    - 05 being cleared out and new owner
    - 09 needs new water line and quite a bit of work
  - 712 Marion - nothing new, the house is secure
  - 702 Leach - house is secure and boarded up
  - 303 Rose - Vacant and being monitored
  - 417 Phillip - Monitoring
  - 211 and 325 Leach - Foot traffic on the properties but everything is secure
- Scrub Day packets given