

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Monday September 10th

Wells Fargo Neighborhood LIFT program- Dave Johnston:

- Wells Fargo & Neighborhood Finance Corporation
- Program offers \$15,000.00 down payment assistance grant for home purchases
- Funding for 250 homes in Polk County
- Participants must qualify (See link below for details)
 - Attend Free Classes
 - Stay in home for 5 years
 - Special version for military, veterans, teachers, and first responders available
- Wells Fargo Neighborhood LIFT program link : <https://www.wellsfargo.com/mortgage/lift>

Matt McCoy – Democratic Candidate for Polk County Supervisor, District 5:

- Facing Libertarian Candidate Jocelyn Fry in the November 6th election
- South Side native who grew up working at his dads old business Sellers Hardware
 - Major Goals/Focuses Mental Health
 - Wants to start/maintain a fund to help support mental health/substance abuse treatment
 - Met with 62 current inmates who all had mental health or substance abuse issues
 - Met with Judge Price who advised currently 40 inmates in Polk county jail for over 6 months that should be in Oakdale for further treatment but funds not available
 - Spent time reviewing Social Service programs for treatment options such as the Bridges program
 - Programs to assist Chronic Homeless Issue
 - Central Iowa Veteran Shelter looking to build a 26 unit facility
 - Also discussed proposed Conlin Facility
 - Food Bank food scarceness
 - Visited the food bank to assess food scarceness issues currently happening
 - Work with the county to work on funding/budgets to assist in the issue
- Q & A session
 - Member asked Blight Homes and what plan was to correct the issue - Matt advised funding is down and the cost to remove the properties has almost doubled but if we get him the address of property being discussed (gave address) he will review
 - 1 cent sales tax and current property tax increase addressed- Matt advised that the county will lower property taxes if tax is passed. Members addressed concern about where funds are from the property tax hike. Matt advised he has not been sworn into office but this will be on his radar and he will review.

Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:

- Joel advised his role is to provide environmental education and lead activities such as work on programs to get the community involved in to enjoy parks and activities such as rain barrel workshops, paddle boarding classes and fishing programs
- Members stressed concern about lack of green space/parks in the area
 - Member brought up Joel partnering with the schools to better their playgrounds due to lack of parks

- Also discussed empty space at South Union school
- Joel advised he will take concerns to his superiors and advised the best way to obtain goal is to provide a plan, location, and funding

Tim O'Brien – Inspector

- Role is to board and manager requests for blight properties in the area. If blight property needs addresses bring to their attention and they will have property boarded
- Members brought long term blight home issues to Tim's attention. He advised the issue with tear down of the homes is the federal funds have dried up
- Tim to retire at the first of the year and Joshua Raleigh will take his place. Introduction and contact cards passed out to the group

Sergeant Ripperger – Crime Report

- 2 crimes reported in the last 30 days; per map provided 1 resolved and 1 suspect identified
- Down from this time last year (6) as well as severity of the crimes
- Discussed ways to eliminate convenience thefts and emphasized the importance of reporting suspicious or unusual activity