

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Monday March 9th, 2020

Featured Guest - Cody Christensen, Permit Development Center:

- Discussed tax abatement options for residents in our area
- When work/updates are done to homes, and a permit is pulled detail gets sent to the assessor's and will raise your assessment value based off improvements
- Abatement helps delay that cost on assessed value for up to 10 years
- Minor updates like roofing & window replacement that don't require a permit are still eligible for an abatement
- Updates must be 5% of assessed value to apply for the abatement
- Current plan expires 2025
- Tax abatement schedule handed out but can also be found on the city website
- Go to city website to complete the abatement application

Featured Guest - Lisa Crabbs, Neighborhood Development Division:

- Provided emergency repair brochures
- Program is for residential properties
- Emergency repair such as sewer, water, foundation repair, etc.
- Must own the home
- Be in the home for 1 year and file homestead tax credit
- Must be primary residence and homeowner pays all costs associated with ownership and maintenance
- Property assessed at or below 165k
- Current on taxes and insurance
- Property must be located In Des Moines jurisdiction
- Total household income must be lower than HUD 80% annual income limit
- Approval process 3-6 months
- 5-year lien/forgivable loan against the property.
- If property is sold prior to the 5 years, home owner will be required to repay the remaining balance

Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:

- McCrae overlook now open
- New brochure with activities can be found on line but will be available at next meeting
- Trees forever program discussed where teens paid to plant trees in the city
- For more information visit www.TreesForever.org/Growing Futures

Josh Raleigh- Inspector:

- Not in attendance, but Lisa Crabbs provided printed handout with update on blight homes
- Continue to send issues to Josh

Sergeant Ripperger- Crime Report:

- 1 crime report in the last 30 days
 - Assault and closed by arrest
- This time last year
 - 1 burglary
 - 1 robbery

Dave Johnston – Member vote on addition of the ¼ section directly East of the North Half our current WHNA

- No Vote - 0
- Yes Votes - 10
 - Jerry Cheevers 4104 SW 7th St
 - Paul Minks 301 SW McKinley Ave
 - David Johnston 604 Philip St
 - Polli Petersen 4324 SW 7th St
 - Jim Morano 4619 SW 6th St
 - Sherri Morano 4619 SW 6th St
 - Andrea Greer 4105 SW 5th St
 - Brad Greer 4105 SW 5th St
 - Elizabeth Williams 714 Maish Ave
 - Becky Dewey 608 Leach Ave