

# Minutes

## Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association

### Special Board Meeting, May 17, 2023

In attendance: Dave Johnston, Heather Byrd, Becky Dewey, Jim Hugley, Ryan Shaw, Elizabeth Williams  
Absent: Andrea Greer, Brad Greer, Karen Ladden

#### Treasurer's report:

- Current balance is \$12,939

#### Insurance:

- Since Jim has experience with liability/event insurance from his previous work on other boards, Dave asked him to review the quotes he received from.
  - State Farm
    - Total annual: \$1,281
  - Jester Insurance Services: United States Liability
    - Total annual: \$1,043
  - Jester Insurance Services: West Bend
    - Total annual: \$897
- Heather Tamminga, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator with the City of Des Moines
  - The City does not require that neighborhood associations carry, but it is strongly recommended. While incorporation in the State of Iowa does provide WHNA with some limited volunteer indemnity, it does not cover attorney fees, which would be incurred if an action were to be filed against WHNA. This is where the insurance plays a role. Insurance covers attorney fees incurred from defending against a lawsuit.
  - She estimates that 15–20 neighborhood associations have insurance -- either general liability or events insurance.
  - Neighborhood associations can use the City's capacity building grant to pay for premiums. The grant was \$1,000 last year.
- After a cursory glance through the policies, Jim stated that initially it appeared that the West Bend policy appeared to have what we need, but wanted to take the proposals home to study them more closely.
- Jim made a motion to get the insurance we need for the best price, up to \$1,500. If the policy is more than \$1,000 the board will cover the difference with money from the treasury.
  - Dave seconded the motion.
  - It passed by unanimous vote from those present.

#### National Night Out

- It was decided that two \$30 gift cards would be awarded every 15 minutes beginning at 5:15.
- Gift cards will be purchased from Hy-Vee, Fareway and Casey's.
- Elizabeth will ask DMARC if they are available to come again.

- It was decided we will offer food bags again, but we'll put together items that aren't so heavy for attendees to carry around the event. Heather suggested filling them with snacks that are easy for kids to grab and eat.
- Becky has school supplies left from last year. She'll make a few more bags to top off our supply for this year. We also discussed donating leftover school supplies to Park Avenue Elementary after the event.

#### Committees

- Dave would like to organize people to attend or watch the various municipal meetings and report back to the WHNA board. City council, school board, and county board of supervisors were mentioned.

#### By-Laws

- We need to update the by-laws. Dave would like to discuss removing the ability to vote via email. We are meeting in-person again, and those discussions are helpful when making decisions.