

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Monday December 10th

Introduction of Featured Guest – Amber Lynch, AICP

Amber is the Senior City Planner in the Neighborhood Development Division of the City of Des Moines Staff. The Neighborhood Revitalization program was established in 1989 due to conditions going downhill in Des Moines. The program brought in consultants to perform a review and provide recommendations. Review home conditions, values, and overall neighborhood status. The goal is to jump start the neighborhood, promote growth and reinvestment

- Re-reviewing current process and re-hired a consultant to do a program evaluation (year in a half ago)
 - Last review completed in 2005
- Current review did a study on all Des Moines homes
- With all data they review the next steps for action with data
- Evaluation process is completed and the Next phase of work to focus on-
 - 4 areas for test cases : Columbus park , Oak/Highland Park, SE Drake (OZ area), and 48th & Franklin
 - Code enforcement
 - Demolition
- Watrous heights details given-
 - 966 residential properties
 - Average year built 1950 (1890-2008)
 - Average assessed value (2017): \$106,068
 - Property conditions (2017):
 - Good or average condition: 12% (118)
 - Average condition: 69% (668)
 - Slipping or poor condition: 19% (180)

Q & A session:

- Dave's review of the report
 - 19 percent in our area means 1 in 5 homes is slipping
 - If your top end = nothing done
 - Middle of the chart = potential for good return on investment. Plan recommends these are the areas to look at investing
 - Bottom shape = plan recommends to let it go and properties can be bought as junk properties
- Ambers thought- Those neighborhoods that fall in the distressed revitalization is not the right tool. Other means need to be taken care of first before revitalization
- Funding for Blight homes
 - Currently federal money that the city receives
 - Around 10 properties per year
 - New funds from 1 cent sales tax
- Dave asked what can we do to get help in our area as a NA?
 - Don't wait for the city
 - Work on the house regardless of rent/own
 - Resources
 - Sheet will be sent to Dave with resources available

Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:

- Construction starting on waterworks park
- Pool passes for the summer cheaper if you get them right now
- Star gazing program at Ewing park
- Winter adult whiffle ball and volleyball signups
- Father Daughter dance and Mother Son event at the Science Center of Iowa

Josh Raleigh- Inspector:

- Exterior maintenance code details not available
 - Not concrete at this time. Josh is not sure if it will be passed but does have potential to change and or could go to the state and reversed
 - Owner occupied
 - Junk and debris, un-licensed, inoperable, etc.
- Josh provided update on blight homes
 - 211 Leach: Vacant house; Back door was un-boarded and order is in for 12/11
 - 325 Leach: Vacant; No boarding and is set to board
 - 215 Leach: Boarded
 - 702 Leach: House boarded up by owners; Owned by Millennium Information Services
 - 4204 SW 7th: Owed by Rudolph Investments; Being remodeled
 - Tim did inspection last week in effort for it to be rented
 - Rudolph is working to get corrected
 - Shed needs updated or removal
 - 4110 SW 5th: Stopped by today structure still there; Boards still on
 - Emailed sue this morning for a status no response
 - As of November 7th, case sent to engineering department
 - 4300 SW 5th: Appears to be vacant; Exterior doors and windows secure.
 - Garage door was broken open so order put in to board
 - 4612 SW 6th: Cleaned up; Water bill is in sons name with water usage less than 1 person
 - 4601 SW 8th: Spoke to the owner, said that she walked away from it after husband passed
 - Not even supposed to be in her name
- No new addresses but Josh will continue to review
- Noticed allot of gang graffiti on buildings and relator signs
 - Most cleaned up
 - Report any graffiti to Josh with pictures and address, and he will get it done
 - Outside contractor covers it up
- Josh checking into posting notification to the board and rules

Sergeant Ripperger- Crime Report:

- 2 crimes in the last 30 days
 - Burglary at 3811 SW 3rd was Domestic related and an isolated incident.
 - Motor Vehicle Theft at SW 9th / Wolcott Ave. The case is active and was related to the burglary listed above.
- This time last year there were 7 burglaries (all crime)
- Entire South Side crime rate is down for 2018
- 1 theft of Christmas lights was reported, however is not on list as they determined report not filed as no case number given