

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, October 14th

WHNA Bylaw updates- Dave Johnston

- WHNA Board made suggested modifications to our WHNA Bylaws to enhance the chances that we will obtain IRS approval for our 501(c)(3) status
- Copy of these modified Bylaws were provided via email and a copy posted to the WHNA Website at www.watrousheightsna.com
- Members and Board approved the modified Bylaws

Introduction of Featured Guest – Chelsea Chism-Vargas running for City Council Ward 4

- Grew up on the south side of Des Moines
- Wants to ensure everyone in ward 4 has a voice
- Discussed high housing prices in the ward
- Ward 4 is SW 9th to the fair grounds
 - Wants to make sure all parties are involved and represented
- Discussed concern on lack of jobs on south and east side
- Infrastructure concerns with conditions of streets and sidewalks, or lack there of
- Also wants to review a ban on racial profiling
 - Make a law instead of a ban
- No previous office experiences
 - Started doing leadership programs
 - Held office through school as council president
- Chelsea4DSM on Facebook

Introduction of Featured Guest –Jack Hatch Running for City Council Ward 4

- Builder who specializes in affordable housing
- Decided to run 2 years ago with the water quality issues and dismantling of water works
 - Current Mayor voted to allow the quality drops in water quality and Jack wants to fight that and has a history on the subject
 - No other candidate running for Mayor has a plan currently
- Discussed infrastructure and roads
- Currently develops affordable housing
- Population boom down town 5300 people living down town 10 years ago and now 17k live there
 - Result in lost population in other corridors throughout the City
- Previously a State Senator
- He advised he has 2 open projects but those will close out so if nominated he will step away from development to avoid conflict of interest
- Goals:
 - Infield housing and housing rehabilitation
 - Mental health plan will be released shortly
 - Assign a special team of mental health officers who are trained to deal with these scenarios

Joel Van Roekel - Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:

- Overlook is open
- Jingle bell parties (toys for tots)
- Saturday Pumpkin geo-cash
- Youth Basketball and Adult Basketball pending sign ups

Josh Raleigh- Inspector:

- Josh provided update on blight homes
 - 4601 SW 8th - at Demo stage, in the next few weeks will be torn down
 - Utilities disconnected
 - Fence removed
 - Inside has been gutted as well
 - Set for tear down any day
 - Josh was able to enter homes on Leach
 - Josh filed Public nuisance on both properties due to foundation and other issues observed
 - Dave requested list of blight homes and statuses
 - this will enable WHNA to call the city and complain on known nuisance properties
 - Josh will provide a list to Dave on updates on potential blight homes
 - Josh's recommendations to get blight houses moving
 - continue to bring it to bring concerns to WHNA meetings
 - continue to lodge complaint to the city

Sergeant Ripperger- Crime Report:

- 7 crimes in the last 30 days
 - 2 burglary
 - 1 assault
 - 1 larceny
 - 2 motor vehicle thefts (1 truck hauling lawn mowers)
 - 1 robbery
 - This time last year there were 3 crime reports
- New Community Camera Program
 - Program launched to register your private security cameras with the city of Des Moines
 - Detectives would review footage to help resolve crimes around the city
 - Completely confidential
 - Police cannot remote in or view cameras