

Minutes

Watrous Heights Neighborhood Association Members Meeting, Wednesday May 19th, 2021

Sign in: Dave Johnston, Andrea Greer, Brad Greer, Elizabeth Williams, Becky Dewey, Buck Buchholz, Ricardo Corona, Maria Corona, Yanira Scarlett, Josh Raleigh, Connie Boesen, Tammy Berenguel, Jim & Sherri Moreno

Joel Van Roekel- Parks and Recreation Liaison Officer:

- Still hiring for aquatic facilities. All jobs are available on the city website under job opportunities
- Grand opening of Riverview park June 4th
- Friends Golf Outing
- Bridge being rebuilt by Mulletts with bridge park
- Offices will be open June 1st and restrictions lifted
- McRae Park overlook had some land sloping(dirt) issues. Nothing structural or concerns with the overlook

Josh Raleigh- Inspector:

- Josh provided updates on blight homes
 - 325 Leach- Court order stage and ready to be sent for demo
 - 211 Leach- Marked ready for demo
 - 4110 is up for a variance: 12.5ft variance from the side street (Leach Ave). Planning and zoning Meeting is open to the public and if any neighbors want to attend and voice concerns should do so June 3rd at 6pm via zoom
- Junk and debris is being pushed hard at this time from inspectors
- Dave asked about the block grant challenge through invest DSM
 - City will provide a grant of maximum of 2500 dollar grant
 - Neighbors on a block get together and choose to a project or improvement
 - Application due in July
 - Connie Boesen will provide an update to Dave with more details

Sargent Yanira Scarlett- Crime Report:

- Introduce herself to us (Q&A) session
 - From Puerto Rico
 - Grew up all over the US, as her dad was in the military
 - Only been an officer for DMPD
 - Hispanic neighborhood outreach resource since 2016
 - Started coffee with a cop 2 years for additional community outreach
 - Now back to NBSD from Oakridge to 63rd since 2016
 - Married and husband is also an officer with DMPD
 - Has a 12-year-old daughter
 - No family in Iowa, as moved here in 1999
- Jim and Sherri Moreno brought up Vivint folks walking around the neighborhood. Appear to not be legitimate based on questions. Sarge is going to look into this
- Crime report- Sarge will work with Dave to get the report updated and Dave will send it out, if any events to report

Dave Johnston – New Business:

- Major Reconstruction of McKinley Ave starting construction next spring, with no through traffic for one-two years. Detour: McKinley north on South Union to Watrous; West on Watrous to SW 9th and South on SW 9th back to McKinley
- Covid-19- Have been trying to get a mobile or temporary vaccination site set up in our area to help make it easier for our neighbors to get vaccinated. So far WHNA hasn't been able to get that arranged but still working on it. Contact Dave if you would be interested in local mobile site
- First Time WHNA Hosting on our own a National Night Out for the Police and Fire Department
 - Tuesday, August 3rd 2021 at Park Avenue Elementary School Grounds
 - Dave received confirmation the fire department will be in attendance but still on call
 - More green space to use at the new location
 - look at activities such as face painting and other activities to engage the kids
 - If anyone knows of an entertainer, please let Dave know
- WHNA Fourth Annual Holiday Lighting Contest
 - The most successful program we had this past year was the WHNA THIRD ANNUAL Holiday Lighting Contest and the related "Show-off your home Directory"
 - Can we find/raise the funds to have a larger number of awards and more prize money for the WHNA
 - We know there are some homes that have young kids in our WHNA neighborhood that do not have available funds to do any exterior holiday decorations. If we can raise the funds, we will set aside some funds to buy strings exterior holiday lights. If anyone knows of someone in need, please let us know
- WatchDSM Community Camera Program
 - We want to continue efforts to fund our WHNA incentive to support the WatchDSM program
 - This does not buy equipment but pays a small incentive for homes with camera equipment to register their system with the DSM Police Department
- WHNA is in the middle of formalizing our overall plans for the rest of 2021 year
 - If you have an idea or project where you would like to have us get involved, let us know in these meetings or contact Dave at (515) 287-1976

Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm