 Waco Community Watch Meeting

May 4, 2023

6:30 pm

Minutes:

* J. Barrett opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed all members present. Two guest from the Cleveland County Sheriff’s department attendee the meeting. Sgt. Canipe and another patrol officer. We will continue to encourage members to attend the meetings via Facebook and email.
* Sgt. Canipe praised the group and said that Waco was one of the few programs that have continued to hold meeting and remained active over the past year. Members discussed ways to increase participation in the group.
* Window stickers remain available to members of the community at no cost.
* Please continue to pay attention to the Neighborhood Watch signs throughout town and to notify a Watch Captain if any are found to be missing or damaged. Signs were placed on all town streets and there are still a few available. We currently do not have any additional signs but we have funds available to order if needed.
* The Waco Community Watch Facebook Group page membership continues to grow and is currently has over 168 participants. Participation in sharing of news and crime stories is active on the page. Stories and other information are being shared on the page on a regular basis.

We continue to share post with relevant information to the Waco Community and information posted from the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Dept. and the City of Shelby Police Dept. Group members are encouraged to continue to post to the page.

* The email chain group also continues to grow and remains active in sharing of information. Information shared on the Facebook page is also being shared via email. Anyone interested in taking over the email notifications, please let us know.
* The financial statements for the Community Watch program was presented. To date donations have been received totaling $1,250.15. Expenses (window stickers, signs, the logo, postage supplies, the brochure, etc.) total $1,046.07. The current balance is $204.08. The Town of Waco did pick up the cost of the hardware to install the Community Watch signs.

Discussion on opportunities to raise money for the program were discussed. One idea was to speak with Foothills Shooting Complex about setting up a food ten at the range on a Saturday and sell hotdogs, chips and drinks. Other organizations are doing this to raise money. Members thought this would be a good possibility. Barrett with make time to speak to someone at Foothills about the process.

* Meetings with Washing, Burns Middle and High Schools pending.
* Community Watch brochures remain available and members are encouraged to hand out brochures to others in their neighborhoods. Brochures have been placed at the Waco Post office and in other establishments in the community.
* Watch Captains for the program are currently Tracy Chichester who volunteered to serve as the South Main St. Captain. Flavio Hallais volunteered to serve as the North Main St. Captain. We will continue to discuss this issue. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact John Barrett, Tracy Chichester or Flavio Hallais.
* Specific Community Watch issues that have been discussed include:
* Speeding continues to be a problem on Cherryville Rd., North and South Main St., and on Jess Hord Rd. This is a continuing problem. ***(Will see about getting the speed trailer from the Sheriff’s Department).***
* No new information on the pack of dogs that have been seen between South Main St. and Capernium Rd. Trach states she has heard them but hasn’t seen them***. (There have been less reports on the Community Watch page about the dogs. Will continue to evaluate. If members see the dogs, please report them to Cleveland County Communications 704-476-7800 or to Animal Services at 704-481-9884 ext # 5)***
* Suspicious vehicles have been reported on the page and members are encouraged to contact the Sheriff’s Department to report these**. *(The non-emergency Sheriff’s Department number is 704-484-4822 or 704-476-7800)***
* The issue with a homeless man and woman sleeping in the Waco Post Office lobby at night after dark has been resolved apparently. ***(Continue to monitor and report any activity to the Sheriff’s Department)***
* The other concern is cars pulling to the back of the Post Office at night and possibly doing some illegal activities. (***This may still be a problem. Watch members are asked to pay attention to any suspicious activity around the Post Office and to notify the police is they see anything that is out of place.)***
* The 2 homeless men knocking on the door of Waco Baptist Church have not been seen around lately. (***If they are seen, members are encouraged to call the Sheriff’s Department non-emergency line and report them.)***
* There have been issues with suspicious activity with homeless individuals in the area of Bingham Rd. ***(Need to continue to watch this area and report suspicious activity.)***
* The group discussed there have been several drug raids in the community and went on record in support of the Sheriff’s Department’s continued crack-down on drug activity***.***
* The “Neighborhood Book Library” and “Neighborhood Blessing Box” projects with Burns High School Woodworking class are on track.

The Book Library will be placed at the fence neat the fire hydrant and playground. Members agreed that we will need to monitor what people put in there to alleviate some “un-wanted” material to be placed in the library.

Members discussed the Blessing Box placement. The issue was brought to the Town Board and the box will be placed on Dodd St. beside the electric pole under the street light. We will need to regularly keep check on the box.

* Tracy provided Crime Stoppers Program updated information and business cards with the group. She went over the process of turning in tips and how individuals would be paid if a tim resulted in an arrest. The program is up and running and the Crime Stoppers number is 704-481-(TIPS) 8477 or email wray.hamrick@cityofshelby.com For more information go to [Crime Stoppers | City of Shelby](https://www.cityofshelby.com/departments/police/community-initiatives/crime-stoppers)
* The “Waco Light’s Up for Christmas” program was discussed and members talked about ideas to increase participation in the town. Members also discussed other ideas to help the program grow. Plans to add additional lights and decorations to the bridge were discussed. Other ideas are starting back the Christmas parade and the possibility of having caroling the night of the judging with church choirs from Waco Baptist and Macedonia Baptist churches. More discussion at future meetings.
* The group discussed hosting our second “Community Watch Block Party” and picked Saturday August 26th as the date. Times will be 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. The food menu will stay the same and remain free to all that attend. Activities discussed were to ask for an inflatable and snow cone maker from All American Bounce House Rentals, to invite the Waco Community Vol. Fire Department, bring back lawn games, popcorn maker and possibly find some type Beach Music group to perform. Also to find a way to include a water games for the kids. We can re-use the banners from last year with just a change of the date. Banners will go up by mid-July. Re-starting the Community Yard Sale the morning of the Block Party was discussed. Additional discussion and planning to be held at the next meeting.

We will start assigning task to specific people at the June meeting:

Menu planning –

Food shopping –

All American Bounce house rentals –

Music –

Fire Department –

Games –

Grill –

Tents –

Coolers –

Ice –

Banners -

* Minutes of the meeting will be completed and shared via Facebook and email to members.
* The next meeting is Thursday June 1st at 6:30 pm. Please attend and bring a friend.
* Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.