 Waco Community Watch Meeting

Thursday August 4, 2022

6:30 pm

Minutes:

* J. Barrett opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed all members present. We had a really great turnout for the meeting. We will continue to encourage members to attend the meetings via Facebook and email.
* J. Barrett again reminded everyone that window stickers are available to members of the community at no cost.
* Barrett discussed the 20 new 10” x 14” Neighborhood Watch signs that have been purchased by the group. The Town Board has approved adding speed limit signs to each street and the new Neighborhood watch signs will be placed below the speed limit sign. The Town Board currently had a bid from a vendor to install the speed limit signs and the bid will be discussed at the August Town Board meeting. Community Watch members agreed that they would be responsible to install the Community Watch signs once the speed limit signs were installed. It’s noted that we need to call 811 and have utilities marked before we start installing the poles.
* J. Barrett reported that the Waco Community Watch Facebook Group page membership has grown to 70 participants. Participation in sharing of news and crime stories is active on the page. Stories and other information is being shared on the page on a regular basis. Group members are encouraged 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.
* J. Barrett presented the financial statements for the Community Watch program. To date donations have been received totaling $1,102.12. Expenses for window stickers, signs, the logo, postage supplies, the brochure and printing total $ 1,010.04. The group recently received a donation from Flavio Hallais bringing the current available balance to $92.08.
* As discussed at the July meeting, a letter has been drafted to send to all the churches in the Community with additional information on the program and with window stickers for the churches to display.
* A meeting will be set at the beginning of this school year with Washington Elementary staff to discuss their participation in the program. The group agree that working through the children at Washington will be a good avenue to reach all areas of the community. Anyone who is interested in either setting up the meeting or participating should notify John or Tracy. Barrett said that he would follow up with Burns Middle and Burns High School concerning participation in the program at the beginning of the school year.
* 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 we are planning on placing them in other businesses in the community.
* Further discussion on the need and number of Watch Captains for the program was held. Members agreed that at a minimum there is a need for one person to serve as a Watch Captain on each side of town (North Main St. – South Main St. – East Cherryville Rd. – West Cherryville Rd.) to serve as a liaison to the program. In June Tracy Chichester volunteered to serve as the South Main St. Captain. The names of members in the other parts of town were mentioned for other positions. Further discussion on this will be held at the next meeting. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact John Barrett or Tracy Chichester.
* Specific Community Watch issues discussed including identifying street lights that are blocked or partially blocked by tree limbs. Barrett spoke with Duke Energy and they stated that they were not responsible for clearing tree limbs from around street lights. It is up to the home owners or the town to have this addressed. Barrett will put this on the Town Board’s August agenda. There are reports of lights blocked on North Main St (2) and on Moss St.
* Members present began a lengthy discussion on the planned August 27th “Neighborhood Block Party”. The event will run 10:00 am – 4:00 pm or until all the food is gone.
* Items needed:
* Pop-up canopies – John and Tracy both will supply one. If any other members have one, we can borrow, please let us know.
* Bounce house – All American Bounce House rentals will supply
* Shaved Ice machine – All American Bounce House will supply - need flavoring Grape – Cherry – Blueberry – Orange – Pina Colada – Snow Cream - Raspberry
* Coolers – Hamilton’s, Tiffany Lott, John, Flavio
* Bean bag toss – Hamilton’s, Mike Scism, John
* Grill – Mike Scism will provide
* Ice – Check to see if the Stop & Shop / Lake Corner will provide
* Aluminum pans – Tracy has some and some in closet
* Aluminum wrap for hot dogs – We have some. Dollar General / Dollar tree
* Gloves – Cindy will provide
* Plates – We have some left over from Yard sale - Walmart
* Paper towels – We have in Community Center closet
* Water – We have several cases in closet. Need to pick up from Walmart
* Can drinks – Get what’s on sale at Food Lion – Coke and Pepsi products, Sundrop products.
* Food:
* 250 Hot dogs – Sams Mart or Walmart
* Buns – Walmart
* Chili – Diane, Cindy, Tiffany each will do crock-pot
* Slaw – Loretta, Becky, John will do
* Onions – Get bag from Walmart or Stop & Shop
* Condiments – Mustard, Ketchup, Relish – Walmart
* Chips – Get party packs – Walmart
* Sweets – Cakes – Hamilton’s - Walmart
* Waco Community Vol. Fire Dept. has agreed to provide truck and activities.
* Barrett stated that the Cleveland County Elections Board wanted to set up a voter registration table at the event and the group agreed.
* Barrett presented four 3’ x 6’ banners that have been purchased and these will be put up to advertise the event. The event will be posted on the Town of Waco, the Community Center and the Community Watch Facebook pages. No other advertising will be done. We will invite the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Department and Cleveland County EMS to come eat with us.
* All activities and food and drinks will be free. We do plan to set up a Community Watch table to share information on the program and we will have a place where donations will be accepted.
* Members helping with the event need to be at the Community Center at 8:00 am to help get things set up.
* Please call John or Tracy if you can help with any of the food, activities, supply any of the needed items or help in the planning.
* Minutes of the meeting will be completed and shared via Facebook and email later in the week.
* The next meeting is Thursday September 1st at 6:30 pm. Please attend and bring a friend.
* Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

***\*\*All members are encouraged to turn out for the event and meet everyone and help share information about Community Watch. Our hope is that this event will increase interest and participation in our Waco Community Watch program and that it will become an annual event. Please make plans to come out and join us in the activities and enjoy a free hotdog too! See you on the 27th\*\****