 Waco Community Watch Meeting

July 6, 2023

6:30 pm

Minutes:

* J. Barrett opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed all members present. Turnout was good for the meeting with several new watch members attending.

We will continue to encourage members to attend the meetings via Facebook and email. Ideas discussed on how to increase participation in the meetings. We are currently sending out notices on the meeting date on the Community Watch page, the Town of Waco page, on One Man’s Junk Waco and on the Shelby Talks pages. We are also sending out an email notice to a group of 30 people.

* 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. 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 183 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 including post from the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Department and the Shelby Police Department. 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 picked 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 that was discussed previously was to speak with Foothills Shooting Complex about setting up a food tent 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 has contacted Foothills but hasn’t heard back. Will follow up.

* 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. The Sheriff’s Dept. trailer helps when it’s used but the problem continues.
* New information on the pack of dogs that have been seen between South Main St. and Capernium Rd. was posted on the Facebook page. The pictures that were shared were of 2 brown dogs which were not with the other group. It was reported that the original pack was still roaming in the same area and were seen (heard) chasing deer. Tracy states she hasn’t heard them lately***. (Continue to monitor the situation)***
* Watch members are encouraged to continue to report any suspicious vehicles to the Sheriff’s Department. (The non-emergency Sheriff’s Department number is 704-484-4822 or 704-476-7800).
* The concern of cars pulling to the back of the Post Office at night and possibly doing some illegal activities was discussed. (***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.)***
* There have been reports of suspicious individuals between Jess Hord Rd. and Bingham Rd. with some walking in the field near Judy Barrett’s house. ***(Need to continue to watch this and report to the Sheriff’s department.)***
* The Devon Bingham vacant home on Bingham Rd. has been broken into and family noticed that the aluminum carport had been taken down. The family notified the Sheriff’s Dept. and they actually caught the suspects in the home and arrested them.
* There has been a break-in to a vacant home on North Main St. and the Sheriff’s Department is investigating. ***(Please watch for suspicious activity and report this if seen.)***
* Nothing new on Racine Dr. ***(Police investigating)***
* Enola Dr. possible drug sales was reported to Crime Stoppers.
* The Town has voted to install security system with exterior cameras to the Community. ***(This will be completed in the next few months.)***
* The Fire department reported that 4 individuals were caught using the exterior electric outlets to charge their phones and loitering at the fire department on June 25th. The individuals had broken the locking covers of the outlets and had left trash around the area. The Sheriff’s Dept. caught the suspects at the area of the Stop & Shop and brought them back to the fire department to clean up the trash they left. At some point two of the suspects were arrested for pushing an officer and the other two were picked up by a family member. These individuals were seen on numerous cameras between the fire department and the Stop & Shop earlier in the night. ***(If members see people wandering around businesses or homes, especially at night, please contact the Sheriff’s Dept.)***
* Please continue to watch neighbor’s homes and report any suspicious activity.
* We were notified that the Burns High School Shop class were unable to complete the “Book Library” and “Neighborhood Blessing Box” projects by the end of the school year. Barrett spoke with Mr. Wybrill and will make arrangements to pick up the projects and will find someone to complete them.

The plan is to place the Book Library at the fence near the fire hydrant and playground. Members will monitor what people put in there to alleviate some “un-wanted” material to be placed in the library. The Blessing 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.

* The Town remains interested in setting up a Farmers Market at the Community Center one day a week this summer. If you know of anyone that would be interested in do this, please contact a Board member. Members provided a few names of person’s that may be interested. Will follow up and report back at the August meeting.
* The Crime Stoppers Program is up and running. The program pays up to $1,000.00 if a tip leads to an arrest and all tips are anonymous. Tip line is 704-481-8477 / email is stoppers.c@yahoo.com / internet isp3tips.com. or [www.sheriffclevelandccounty.com/crimestoppers](http://www.sheriffclevelandccounty.com/crimestoppers) . The program will set up a table at the Block Party and provided additional information.
* Tracy also reported that the Crime Stoppers program has asked to use the Community Center on Monday July 17th for a meeting. They are still looking for Board members from the community. If you are interested, contact Tracy.
* 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. Will focus on this after the Block Party.
* The “Community Watch Block Party” is Saturday August 26th 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Fundraising was discussed to help pay for the upcoming event. Letters will be sent to all the businesses in the community asking for donations. A half-n-half raffle was discussed with prizes being donated by local businesses. The food menu will stay the same and remain free to all that attend. Menu will be Hotdogs, chips, drinks, cake or candy, Snow cones and maybe popcorn.

Activities discussed were:

* Inflatable with water feature
* Snow come machine
* Fire Dept. smoke house
* Sheriff’s Dept. K-9 demo
* Bean bag toss
* Music
* Water activity
* Car show
* Crime Stoppers has asked to set up a tent
* Will ask the Elections Board if they want to set up a tent

Assigning task: (Task below are not limited to just the people listed.) Volunteers accepted.

Chili – Loretta, John, Diane, Kim

Slaw – Loretta, Becky, John

Cupcakes/Cakes - Tracy, Kim

Hotdogs – Fire Department will provide 300 hotdogs

Baked beans – Sandy Stroup

Onions – Stop & Shop

Food shopping – John volunteered Flavio and he to handle this Walmart and Food Lion

All American Bounce house rentals – We are confirming with Justin Coleman on this

Music – Israel has sound system. Need to decide on music/ Wifi?

Fire Department – Smokehouse has been confirmed

Games – Israel and Kim on bean bag toss boards, Tracy has a set. Fire Department has a set

Grill – Fire Department will provide

Tents – John (1), Tracy (1), Israel and Kim (1), others?

Coolers – Confirm at August meeting

Ice – Fire Dept. has confirmed they will provide. Check with Stop & Shop and Chicken Hill

Banners – Tracy has banners and will change the date.

Put up banners – Chester, Israel, Flavio. Banners will go up by mid-July.

Donations for the event was discussed with suggestions to speak with:

Food Lion, Walmart Distribution Center, Dairy Queen, Pelican Ice, Fat & Sassy Concessions, Baker Buffalo Winery, Cedar Lake Farms, NAPA, American Restoration, Shelby Hardware, Pepsi, Foothills Shooting Range

Anyone in the Waco Community Watch area that’s interested in helping with the Block Party is encouraged to contact us. We would appreciate any help with planning, shopping, logistics, or funding of the activities.

This event is completely free for the Waco Community and we would sincerely appreciate and accept any help anyone can offer.

* Minutes of the meeting will be completed and shared via Facebook and email to members.
* The next meeting is Thursday August 3rd at 6:30 pm. Please attend and bring a friend.
* Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Waco Community Watch Financial Statement (Updated 8/3/2023)

Funds on-hand 8/3/2023 $204.08

Donation

Flavio Hallis $ 100.00 (check)

Wanda Oats $ 20.00 (cash)

John Barrett $ 13.20 (cash)

John Barrett $ 100.00 (cash)

**Total Balance $437.28**

Expenses

USPS stamps - $13.20

**Ending Balance $ 424.08**

($150.00 held in Town of Waco General Fund)