 Waco Community Watch Meeting

August 3, 2023

6:30 pm

Minutes:

* J. Barrett opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed all members present.

We will continue to encourage members to attend the meetings via Facebook and email. 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.
* 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.
* 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 190 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, the Shelby Police Department and Crime Stoppers. 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 $1,483.35. Expenses (window stickers, signs, the logo, postage supplies, the brochure, etc.) total $1,059.27. The current balance is $424.08.

Discussion on opportunities to raise money for the program were discussed. Will be holding a ½ & ½ raffle at the Block Party as a fund raiser and asking businesses for donations. Will discuss other opportunities at the next meeting.

* 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. ***(Continue to monitor the situation)***
* 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. ***(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. (***Continue to monitor the situation)***
* There have been reports of suspicious individuals between Jess Hord Rd. and on Bingham Rd. ***(Continue to monitor and report activity)***
* Nothing new on Racine Dr. ***(Police investigating)***
* The Town has installed a five exterior camera security system to the Community Center.
* Members are encouraged to 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 work toward this as a project for next spring-summer.
* 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 had used the Community Center for a meeting 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 10:00 am – 4:00 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 planned are:

* Inflatable with water feature
* Snow come machine
* Fire Dept. smoke house
* Sheriff’s Dept. K-9 demo
* Bean bag toss
* Music
* Water activity
* Crime Stoppers has asked to set up a tent
* Will ask the Elections Board if they want to set up a tent
* ½ & ½ raffle

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

Buns-onions-condiments-chips - John and Flavio to handle this Walmart and Food Lion

Water - Tiffany will pick-up

Soft drinks – Watch ads close to the event date and check Worldwide Imports - John

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

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

Fire Department – Smokehouse has been confirmed

Sheriff’s Dept. – Will set up Command post

Cleveland County EMS – John will contact the Director

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

Grill – Fire Department will provide

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

Coolers – Israel, Tracy, Tiffany, others?

Ice – Fire Dept. has confirmed they will provide.

Banners – Banners are up

Water mist machines – Check with Andre about this

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.

Members are encouraged to recruit help from family and friends in the community.

* Minutes of the meeting will be completed and shared via Facebook and email to members.
* The next meeting is Thursday September 7th 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

Donations received $ 233.20

**Total Balance $437.28**

Expenses

USPS stamps - $13.20

**Ending Balance $ 424.08**

($150.00 held in Town of Waco General Fund)