 Waco Community Watch Meeting

Thursday June 2, 2022

6:30 pm

Minutes:

* J. Barrett opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed all members present. Several members of the Holtzclaw family were in attendance and were welcomed to Waco by other members. The Holtzclaw family recently moved South Main St. in Waco. Discussion by the group on how to generate more participation in the meetings was held. Representation from citizens from all neighborhoods in Waco is needed to continue to grow the Community Watch program. Will continue to encourage members to come to meeting via Facebook and email.
* J. Barrett reported that window stickers were available to members of the community at no cost. Several members reported that they had seen stickers on homes in Waco.
* Barrett presented the new 10” x 14” Neighborhood Watch signs that have been purchased to the group. Twenty signs have been purchased and will be displayed on each town maintained street. 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 plan is to add a minimum of 2 speed limit signs to each street. The Town Board is looking at contracting out the installation of the speed limit signs and Community Watch members may be asked to assist with installing the neighborhood watch signs. Further discussion on this project will be held when the speed limit signs are installed. Reminder that we need to call 811 and have utilities marked before we start installing the poles?
* Barrett is still working to get news articles in the Shelby Shopper and Cherryville Eagle about the program.
* J. Barrett reported that the Waco Community Watch Facebook Group page membership has grown from 37 members in May to 55 in June. Participation in sharing of news and crime stories is active on the page. Anyone in the group is encouraged post to the page.
* The email chain group has also grown and now has 18 members receiving information via email. 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 $902.12. Expenses for window stickers, signs, the logo, postage and supplies total $ 645.04. Available funds on-hand are $ 257.08.
* Barrett reported that he had sent a follow up letter to all businesses in the community with updates on the program and thanking those businesses that had made donations. Barrett believes the 2nd letter will lead to more donations being received. Each business was also provided a Community Watch window sticker to be displayed by the business.
* The group agreed that a 2nd letter should be sent to the churches in the community to provide updates and provide the churches with a Waco Community Watch window sticker they can display. Letters will be sent.
* Letters were sent to Washington Elementary School, Burns Middle and Burns High School concerning participation in the program, but with it being late in the school year, this will be re-visited in the fall.
* At the last meeting the group agreed that one of the biggest needs for the program was some type of printed material that could be used as a marketing tool. Barrett presented a proof of a Waco Community Watch tri-fold brochure that had been designed by Graphic Designs by Jimmy Carpenter that could be used to share information on the program and work to build interest. He also handed out several other neighborhood watch brochures from other programs to compare and review. The group spent time reviewing the material and made suggestions for changes to the proof that will be shared with Mr. Carpenter. Once the changes are made, Barrett will share the brochure with members both on Facebook and through email to get more feedback. The plan is to use donations to cover the cost of developing and printing the brochures. Once printed the brochures will be placed in local businesses, schools and provided to households in Waco and throughout the community.
* Discussion on the need and number of Watch Captains for the program was held by group. After discussion, 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. 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 Captain’s positions. Further discussion on this will be held at the next meeting. Anyone interested in volunteering to be a Watch Captain can contact John Barrett or Tracy Chichester.
* The August 27th “Neighborhood Block Party was briefly discussed. Planning for the event will be on the agenda for the July meeting. Members were encouraged to share ideas on how to make this a success. The menu will include hotdogs, drinks, snacks and homemade ice-cream. Donations will be used to purchase all items needed and Watch members will be responsible for cooking and preparing the food. All menu items will be free but donations will be accepted.
* Minutes of the meeting will be completed and shared via Facebook and email later in the week.
* The next meeting is Thursday July 7th at 6:30 pm. Please attend and bring a friend.
* Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.