 Waco Community Watch Meeting

Thursday July 7, 2022

6:30 pm

Minutes:

* J. Barrett opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed all members present. Tracy Chichester contacted the group stating she would be out of town and would miss the meeting and Sandy Stroup contacted stating she had a fire department meeting on Thursdays. Will continue to encourage members to attend the meetings via Facebook and email.
* J. Barrett reported that window stickers continue to be available to members of the community at no cost. Several were handed out to members present to share with neighbors.
* 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 has discussed contracting out the installation of the speed limit signs and Community Watch members may be asked to assist with installing the neighborhood watch signs. The Town Board will follow up with this issue at their next meeting on July 18th and decide when to move forward with the installation of the signs. It’s noted that we need to call 811 and have utilities marked before we start installing the poles.
* Barrett presented the latest issue of The Shelby Shopper to the group where the Waco Community Watch program is highlighted on the front page. The Cherryville Eagle ran a story about the program on the front page of their last week’s issue. A news story about the Waco Community Watch program has now been in the Shelby Star, the Kings Mountain Herald, the Cherryville Eagle and the Shelby Shopper.
* J. Barrett reported that the Waco Community Watch Facebook Group page membership has grown from 55 members in June to 68 in July. 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 also continues to grow and remains active in sharing of information. Information shared on the Facebook page is also being shared via email.
* 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 reports that following the second letter, Consolidated Textiles made a $100.00 donation to the program. Each business in the community has received two letters about the program and have been provided with a Community Watch window sticker to be displayed by their business.
* J. Barrett presented the financial statements for the Community Watch program. To date donations have been received totaling $1,002.12. Expenses for window stickers, signs, the logo, postage supplies, the brochure and printing total $ 1,010.04. Expenses have exceeded donations in a total of $7.92. Donations were made by members present totaling $40.00 which brought the available fund balance to $32.08.
* 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. Barrett stated that he had not sent the letter yet but it would be sent.
* The program received a response letter from Washington Elementary School expressing their willingness to work with the program. A meeting will be set with Washington Elementary staff at the beginning of the next school year. The group agree that working through the children at Washington will be a good avenue to reach all areas of the community. Barrett said that he would follow up with Burns Middle and Burns High School concerning participation in the program at the beginning of the next school year.
* At the May 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. In June the group reviewed a proof of a tri-fold brochure that had been designed by Graphic Designs by Jimmy Carpenter. Discussions around the proof and some additional brochures lead to several changes and additions to be made to the original brochure proof. Barrett worked with Carpenter and following the changes, the brochure was shared to members via the Facebook page and by email. The final proof was widely accepted and approved.

Barrett moved forward with having the final draft of the brochure printed by Westmoreland Printers and tonight he presented the group with 1,000 copies of the brochure. A copy of the brochure was added to the bi-annual town wide letter sent out earlier in the week to every household in Waco. Members are encouraged to hand out brochures to others in their neighborhoods and brochures will be placed in local businesses in the community. Funding for the design, development and printing of the brochures was covered completely by donations.

* 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 included a red car being seen several times driving slowly on Devenny Rd. Members should watch for this, and if seen, try to get a tag number or get it on camera. Also Mike Scism brought up a need to look at street lights in town that may be blocked by tree limbs and noted one issue on Moss St. Becky Haynes noted one possible issue on North Main St. of a tree blocking a light. Falvio Hallais discussed a need for additional street lights on Jess Hord Rd. Barrett will bring this to the Town Board to discuss further.
* Members present began a lengthy discussion on the planned August 27th “Neighborhood Block Party”. Following the June meeting members were encouraged both on the Facebook page and via email to come up with ideas on how to make this event a success. Tonight members present confirmed that the menu will include hotdogs, drinks and chips all of which will be free to the community. We will need pop-up canopies, so if any members have one, let us know.

Activities were discussed and the group agreed to ask Waco community partner All American Bounce House Rentals if they will donate the use of a Bounce house for the day. Barrett will follow up with Chris Coleman on that request. Barrett also mentioned that AABHR had a shaved ice machine on their webpage that they rented and suggested that the group look into that possibility as opposed to offering homemade ice cream. Members agreed that shaved ice would be easier and less expensive to have on the menu. Barrett will follow up with Mr. Coleman on that possibility.

Other activities discussed was bean-bag toss. The Hamilton’s have a set they will provide. Another set is needed. If any other Watch member has a set, please notify John or Tracy.

The group agreed to ask the Waco Comm. Vol. Fire Dept. if they will participate and provide water games for the kids. Barrett will follow up with Sandy Stroup on this request.

Barrett discussed the idea of providing a disc golf set-up and will follow-up on that.

Barrett stated that the Cleveland County Elections Board wanted to set up a voter registration table at the event and the group agreed.

Advertising the event and the need for banners was discussed. Barrett presented pricing for vinyl 3’ x 6’ $27.00 each. Once purchased the banners can be used again by just changing the date. Locations and numbers of banners was discussed with all agreeing that banners should be placed at the Community Center, on South Main below the fire department, on North Main near Bingham Rd. and at the Cherryville Rd. and Main St intersection. The group reviewed and discussed several different designs. Barrett will place the order and the banners should go up in early August. Other advertising will be placed in the Shelby Shopper and on the Town’s Facebook and Community Watch pages. The hope is that this Neighborhood Block Party will become an annual Town of Waco event.

Specific’s on the numbers of hotdogs, drinks, chips, ice, condiments and fixing’s will be finalized at the August 4th meeting. Members will be asked to chip-in with making slaw and chili and with cooking and preparing the food to-order. Final discussions and assignments will be made at the August meeting.

* Minutes of the meeting will be completed and shared via Facebook and email later in the week.
* The next meeting is Thursday August 4th at 6:30 pm. Please attend and bring a friend.
* Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.