



WNA Annual Meeting Agenda Thursday, November 3, 2022 @ 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Hanawalt Elementary School - Commons, 225 56th St

WNA Neighbors:

Board Members:

- Diane Kuhn, President
- McKenzie Glazebrook, Vice President
- Steve Cameron, Treasurer
- Michelle Gartner, Secretary
- Anthony Udrovich, Newsletter
- Vicki Sehgal, Membership Chair
- Vicki Heiken, Block Captain Chair
- Kim Corbin, Comm/Social Chair
- Ed Truslow, Immediate Past President
- Angie Gingery, Secretary Nominee
- Kelli Todd, VP Nominee
- Kyle Vrchota, President Nominee

City/County Officials & Special Guests:

- Josh Mandelbaum – City Council Ward 3
- Lee Wheelock – Dept. Sr. Park Planner
- Matt McCoy – District 1 Polk Co. Supervisor
- Officer Mike Moody – Police Liaison
- Carl Voss – At Large City Council
- Connie Boesen – At Large City Council
- Frank Cownie - Mayor
- Callie Leau Courtright – Parks & Rec Super.
- Heather Tamminga – Neighborhood Outreach
- Lt. Kalar – Police Liaison

Introduction & WNA Highlights (Diane)

- First Meeting since covid
- Board Member Intro, past board members and non elected association volunteers.

Recap of 2022 (WNA Board)

Events & Activities:

- Food Pantry Fundraiser (Kim)
 - Food Bank of Iowa was this year's beneficiary
 - \$3,412 raised (12,689 meals)
 - This year's link is now live. The goal is MORE! tinyurl.com/foodbankwna
 - Kim reminded all the cost of food is up! More money is needed
- Almost Spring Social (Diane)
 - 50 people in attendance
 - Discussion was held on whether to hold it in March or earlier. All are encouraged to email Diane with their preference
- Walnut Creek Clean-Up (Diane)
 - Held the Saturday before Easter and was well attended.
 - Gift cards from several businesses donated for Geocashers.
 - A dumpster full of refuse collected.
 - April 8th will be the next Cleanup. Email signups will be coming.
- Summer Social (McKenzie)

- 140 to 180 attendees at Greenwood Park
- Balloon twister, food truck, sprayground and lots of fun
- McKenzie asked for preference of July or August for the event. Contact the board to share your preference.
- Halloween Hunt (McKenzie)
 - Third year of this event.
 - Sponsor: Cinnaholic.
 - Many thanks to those who hosted signs.
 - Sign volunteers will be needed for next year.
- Beggars Night (Steve)
 - First year of shutting down 51st St
 - Mostly positive comments.
 - People with disabilities had a difficult time accessing the fun. Several solutions were proposed such as drop-off areas, parking at residences and moving the barricades.
 - Possible ideas for next year: band in the street, promotion of the food truck, and letting our neighboring neighborhoods know what we are up to.
 - Very positive feedback
- Annual Meeting (Diane)
 - 53 in attendance.
 - Maybe a different location (Merril?)

Communications:

- Newsletters/Email (Diane)
 - There were three newsletters instead of four this year
 - Email open rate: 40-60%
 - Website Traffic: 115 unique visitors in the last 90 days
- Social Media (Kim)
 - Very active Facebook page
 - It was suggested to use the groups link on the FB page rather than the general page

Behind the Scenes (Diane)

- New Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator & Available Grants
 - If the neighborhood association would incorporate, we could then apply for grants.
- Membership Analysis
 - Ben has been analyzing who the members are and which streets aren't as well represented. This information can be used to enhance membership.
- WNA (Westwood & Waterbury) Social Opportunities
 - It was suggested we consider a combined social event with Waterbury.
 - Improve communication and get to know our neighbors.
- Traffic Calming
 - Speeding is the #1 complaint.
 - A suggested 51st and 56th St traffic calming study was discussed

Treasurer's Report (Steve)

- Steve presented the Treasurer's Report: Call for motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented: Moved by association member, and seconded by another. Motion approved with unanimous votes in favor.

Secretary's Report

- The Secretary's Report was presented by Diane on behalf of Michelle. Call for motion to accept Secretary's Report as presented: Moved by association member, and seconded by another. Motion approved with unanimous votes in favor.

Board Elections (Diane): Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President

- Steve Cameron: Nominee for Treasurer No other nominees. Unanimous vote in favor. Approved.
- Angie Gingery: Nominee for Secretary. No other nominees. Unanimous vote in favor. Approved

- Kelli Todd: Vice President: No other nominees. Unanimous vote in favor. Approved.
- Kyle Vrchota: President. No other nominees. Unanimous vote in favor. Approved.

Councilmember: Josh Mandelbaum

- Emphasized constitutional amendment related to guns. Encouraged NO on Public Measure One
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Discussed the uses of funding
- Mandelbaum is the DART representative. He shared the value and influence of effective public transit and the importance of diversification of funding sources for public transit.
- Question Posed from Floor regarding homeless community members: Mandelbaum explained the City's established methods for serving the homeless population. One proposed solution is more affordable housing options. Connie Boesem and Carl Voss are available after the meeting for additional questions.

Parks & Rec: Lee Wheelock

- Handouts distributed sharing P&R schedules and events
- Frisbie Park: Lee asking for input on what to do with Frisbee Park. P&R has allotted \$150k for playground renovations. A questionnaire linked to QR code which will allow people to give feedback on the proposed project is available.
- A question was asked about Waterworks Park. Waterworks Park is not part of Des Moines Park and Rec.
- A question about drinking fountains in parks was asked. All water fountains should be working and if not, contact P&R. The water fountains are currently off for the winter.

Supervisor Matt McCoy

- McCoy thanked all those in attendance for our commitment to the neighborhood.
- Pamphlets distributed.
- McCoy described ARPA funds expenditures including, Affordable Housing, mental health, water quality and more.
- McCoy provided a list of grants (neighborhood associations are eligible to apply)
- McCoy addressed the concern over the "23% increase in evaluations" in regard to property taxes. He explained the actual growth in tax bills should be closer to 3% or 4%. He did agree that property taxes are too high. Options for financial relief are available for seniors.

Councilmember Carl Voss

- Voss addressed the problem of speeding in our neighborhoods.
- Voss made some signs that he's offering to those who would like to place them in their yards.
- Voss also described ARPA expenditures

Officer Mike Moody

- Statistical information about crime in our neighborhood for this year is not yet compiled, but he shared stats as of July. .
 - Assault: 1
 - Burglary: 1 (lowest in city)
 - Vandalism: 2
 - Intimidation: 1
 - 3 motor vehicles stolen. All in August. All had keys in them.
 - There were other minor issues
 - Priority One calls: 13
 - Officer Moody said these statistics are the lowest he's seen and we have a very safe neighborhood but also advised pulling keys from vehicles.
 - DSM PD monitors Greenweek Park.
- Officer Moody fielded a question about graffiti and vandalism: There is a city crew which addresses graffiti and the link to report is on our website.
- Officer Moody provided his cell phone number 515-639-5660.
- We may request extra patrols or just to have an officer drive by.
- A neighbor shared the impact of a well-attended National Night Out. The event gives neighbors and the police the opportunity to get to know each other and for the community to ask questions.

Moody and Kuhn shared that our Summer Social is attended by members of the police department and functions in a similar manner.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35