

AGENDA FOR VHM QUARTERLY MEETING OCT 21 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 6:37 pm

And welcome to any Grays Woods guests none present

1ST GUEST SPEAKER:

Pat Kozitza, Department of Public Works Director, 515-237-1425, pjkozitza@dmgov.org

- 16 neighborhoods will be in the Snow Ordinance streets program. Des Moines has always allowed parking during snow removal, but other cities did not. There will be signs put up at the entrances to the neighborhood and sprinkled throughout to let you know you need to get off the street if it is snowing. They will wait until the snow ends to come by, but we will be first after the snow routes.
- The new wing plows they bought cannot make it down a street with cars (10 foot blade and 8 foot wing plow.) With this program, plow time will be decreased by 33% because they can do the street in 2 passes. They will also plow after only 1 inch of snow. This means the snow will not build up from multiple snowfalls. This will leave a smaller drift to get through at the end of your street after the plow goes by. Even if there is a small amount of snow or ice left on the street, a sunny day will melt them quickly.
- This will help get rid of the ripples in the street because they won't need to go around cars and come back to rework the street after the car moves. It will be more cost effective now.
- Tickets will be issued quickly. There is a police presence in the office to help with this. The snowplows do call in the cars.
- They have a handout that we can put on cars to help warn them they will be ticketed. It has a contact in our neighborhood to help encourage calls and questions. (Carol Stewart said she would be the contact.) They have a website to check. You can also get an email notification.
- A question was raised about having repeat offenders or too many offenses in the neighborhood. They will do everything they can to make this work for us. It was not a problem in the pilot neighborhoods last year. If it was huge problem, they might have to do something about it, but he is so optimistic that he doesn't think it will be a problem.
- Another question about how they determine snow routes. They get suggestions for and against each year and make changes they think are appropriate. Gary Fox 283-4972 with Traffic and Transportation can help answer questions.
- Our plow drivers are entered in a state competition and bring home 1st, 2nd and 3rd place all the time.

City friend's time:

Vince Valdez, Des Moines Police Department, 515-971-0786, vjvaldez@dmgov.org

- There have been no reported crimes in the last 30 days. There was only one burglary in the last 60 days.
- It was reported that someone is rummaging through garbage cans and recycle bins about 3 am on garbage days when they containers have been pushed to the curb. It is assumed this is for identity theft. It was emphasized that you should not throw anything away with personal confidential information on it. Get a shredder or burn them.

Jim Nelson, Neighborhood Inspection Division, 515-208-0305, jenelson@dmgov.org

- The house and 1020 Knob Hill Dr is in foreclosure. The windows are being broken by rocks thrown at them. The city will not board up windows on the second floor. There are double pane windows and the hole must be through both panes before anything can be done about them. He will look into declaring it a public nuisance with the broken windows.
- We asked if he could look into who owns it now. The owner and bank listed on Polk County assessor site are not correct. He will see if he has some contacts to find out. Someone could be paying taxes and getting ownership that way. If someone buys it and moves in, it will be owner occupied and they don't have to do anything to bring it up to code. We can start a campaign to get the owner to upgrade the property.
- Dogs barking can be called into the non-emergency police number.

Minutes from previous meeting: were read.

Treasurers report: \$616.68

Old business:

Signage

- We cannot have the banner type signs we originally designed. The color was also not approved by the city. We will start again with 30 x 24 inch signs
- BKM properties is paying for half
- Pink was suggested, but we will look at other colors also.

Port a Potty

- Jim's Johns will come to get the kybo soon. They will look up the number of times it was serviced and make sure they could service it where it was placed. There were no complaints from surrounding neighbors. Harlan wondered if it would be cheaper next year if they only came to service it when we called. That means we would need to check it throughout the summer. Rick will call them.

Holiday activities:

- Do we want to have a holiday decoration contest this year? Yes.
- It will be the 6th annual and we will not require anyone to sign up because we have not gotten enough entries in the past. Judging will be evenings of Dec 7-9.
- Do we want to do holiday baskets again? Yes, for Christmas. There isn't enough time before Thanksgiving.
- \$50 was authorized and we can collect items so we would have to buy less and have larger or more baskets. This needs to be advertised in the newsletter.

Street clean:

- Rain, rain and more rain! We never did it this fall, but someone did it when they mowed before the state fair. Thank You.
- We need to do again next Spring

Park clean:

- Plan to do this in April/May 2011. Fence line, playground equipment and hopefully the swing set surround.
- The city said they would provide blocks to create a surround wall to keep in the dirt in. Maybe we can get them to level a place for a gazebo and use that dirt by the swing set.

Garage sale:

- 2nd weekend in June with Copper Creek and maybe Grays Woods

SCRUB day:

- There is a rumor the city will not be doing it anymore. There is one more in November.
- We think it will be done another year because of elections. No one wants to say they will cancel it.
- We need to start planning early next year if we want to have one in our neighborhood. Who can help with this? Maybe we can do it at the Fairgrounds in the Midway area.

Newsletter:

- Brenda will try to put one together for this fall.
- Neighborhood Resource Center just folded into Rebuilding Iowa.
- Are there companies who can print 200 for us? Dot, Brenda

Welcome committee:

- The Welcome Committee needs more items to hand out. Please ask any businesses you can. We usually have 15 houses turn over in a year so if you could get 15 items that would be great.
- Someone just moved in at 4208 Enden Lane

New business:

- NorthEast neighbors (NEN) initiative will be to get a change to how we elect school board. It has mostly westsiders and we need something different. That change being to go to a ward system. More info later.

Douglas Elementary

- Sold to a church. They probably want the playground equipment so we will not have a chance to buy it.

Construction and ditch

- Harlan walked it with Nick Carter, Wastewater Reclamation Authority, and they talked about the problems.
- The contractor was going to leave the culvert in the farm field that they installed during the build. They have removed it though! They have unclogged under Enden also. We probably won't see much more happening this year. There was a concern about the sapling trees along the fence line in back of houses on Enden. We will work with the city and construction company next year to get them to dredge the ditch and cut the trees at the same time.

Candidates for office nominations and vacancies: The following were nominated and elected

Prez Harlan Donaldson

VP Rick Davis

Treasurer Connie Ballard

Secretary Brenda Peel

Board members Steve O'Brien, Carol Stewart, Mary Smith, Patti Burdette

Next meeting: Pot Luck on Jan 20th. We have the big room secured.

Adjourn with Holiday wishes and see you all again in Jan