



Want to join the Drake Neighborhood Association? [Click here!](#)

**TO DO LIST** | **SPECIAL DATES** | **ATTACHMENTS** | **QUESTIONS**

**Meeting Agenda: Wednesday, 03/13/24, Polk Co Senior Center + Zoom, 6:30 pm**

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Courtney Ackerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristina Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Anthofer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Holmberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colin Ashwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spencer Richardson-Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ken Auge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Rivera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lori Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Stuyvesant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shannon Coryell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annelise Tarnowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6:31 pm - Board Business Meeting**

- Roll Call
- City Folks:
  - Charles Zanders - Des Moines Parks and Rec (Recreation Superintendent)
    - Still hiring: 16-18+ for rec leaders, lifeguards, send anyone looking for a job to their website. They have over 300 roles to fill and have been canvassing a lot.
      - Job listings:
        - [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/desmoines?department\[0\]=Parks&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/desmoines?department[0]=Parks&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending)
    - Pool update: [still hiring lifeguards](#), [pool supervisors](#). They will provide the free lifeguard certification (\$200 value, good for 2 years). There is a \$200 incentive bonus for going to trainings! Will provide the swimsuits as well. Likely won't have to keep the pools shut this year, but we need to keep staffing up.
    - Drake Park SprayGround opening May 1
    - Athletics: soccer and volleyball and softball are right now
      - Soccer: 495 participants and growing (peewee: 216 [+50 than 2023])
      - Volleyball: 315 (+100 compared to 2023)
      - Softball: still open – and they're doing a "draft" for teams that need people if you're just looking for a team
    - Brenton Skating Rink – it got warm and mostly stayed warm, so while we exceeded our financial goal before Christmas for admissions, it has been mostly closed and now is officially closed for the season.
    - Grays Lake

- Upgrading concession area now + adding a restaurant (in a few years)
- Yoga in the park is coming back:
  - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/programs/yoga\\_in\\_the\\_park.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/programs/yoga_in_the_park.php)
- Aqua Zumba is back, will have water aerobics in 2026, expanding into senior activities
  - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/index.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/index.php)
- Equitable services:
  - Drake Day Camp: 50 kids, working on hiring staff. Going to be a phenomenal summer. Ages 5-14. Free camp (value of \$200-\$300/week). Field trips (Neil Smith, Art Center, Science Center). Swim lessons. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are included. Limited to 50 kids per site, so get on it!
  - [https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation-division/programs/summer\\_camp.php](https://www.dsm.city/departments/parks_and_recreation-division/programs/summer_camp.php)
    - Columbus Park - 1921 SE 1st St, Des Moines, IA 50315
    - Drake Park - 2300 Drake Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311
    - Evelyn K. Davis Park - 1400 Forest Ave, Des Moines, IA 50314
    - Martin Luther King Jr. Park - 1650 Garfield Ave, Des Moines, IA 50316
    - Weeks Middle School Park - 901 E Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315
  - Adaptive sports collab with Can Play: <https://can-play.org/all-programs/>
    - Soccer co-ed at Tower Park at the futsal courts
    - Wheelchair basketball will be after that
  - Mobile Rec Program
    - Parks & Rec's goal is to have a park within a 10 min walk of everywhere in Des Moines. So for places like South Union, they bring the van with games, speakers, bouncy house they do programming throughout the summer and the school year. Paid for by grants. Hiring staff to cover that (driving and providing programming)
    - Will be at Drake Park as well this summer.
  - Swim Lessons
    - Registration opens April 1: [Swim Lessons](#) sign up
  - Mayors Annual Ride – May 4th: [Register for the Mayor's Annual Ride](#)
  - Activity Guide: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/9ac02dec6e.html>
  - Summer Flicks: back again this summer – [Free Flicks](#)
    - Friday, June 7: Elemental (Rated PG)
      - Teachout Aquatic Center | 2601 Hubbell Ave., Des Moines, IA 50317
    - Friday, June 21: TBD (Rated PG)
      - Columbus Park | 1921 SE 1st St., Des Moines, IA 50315
    - Friday, June 28: DC League of Super Pets (Rated PG)
      - Tower Park | 4900 Hickman Rd., Des Moines, IA 50310
    - Friday, July 12: Wonka (Rated PG)
      - Chesterfield Park | 2719 Scott Ave., Des Moines, IA 50317
    - Friday, July 19: Migration (Rated PG)
      - Ashworth Pool Parking Lot | 102 45th St., Des Moines, IA 50312
    - Friday, August 2: The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Rated PG)

- Riverview Park | 710 Corning Ave., Des Moines, IA 50313
        - Friday, August 16: Trolls Band Together (Rated PG)
          - Brian Melton Field | 1000 Jefferson Ave, Des Moines, IA 50314
          - Birdland construction is started: 7 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, 4 pickleball courts + futsal - [https://www.dsm.city/business\\_detail\\_T6\\_R250.php](https://www.dsm.city/business_detail_T6_R250.php)
          - Stone Park on the south side has the same kind of construction happening
- [NBSD Updates \(Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Program\)](#), Mark McKinney:
  - Stats: Down about 100 trips and down 20 arrests from last month – neighborhood has been really quiet. Most arrests are traffic arrests. Calls are typically from the Kum & Go still.
  - Courtney question: small homeless camp between 26th and 27th towards the interstate, north side. Above the hill above the new drainage system. Folks are now getting in more arguments up there. There doesn't seem to be any more patrolling over there than before.
    - Zoning will come and post it since they're on city property and they have to be gone in 10 days. These folks are now getting into two of the empty houses on 27th. Mark recommended moving these people.
  - Ken question: how do you handle when there is a camp showing up in an empty rental? Esp when you've never seen the owner. They've been throwing things and breaking windows. This is around Clark and 33rd-ish.
    - They will need to prove trespassing. City can get involved.
  - Jason question: did one of the 31st and Cottage Invest DSM houses get broken into? The one on the corner?
    - Mark: looking into it, but you can check the crime map: [MAP HERE](#)
- Josh Raleigh: Zoning
  - Our neighborhood is cut in half with two people representing us in zoning. Charlie McClaren is the Blitz on Blight person, on a first name basis with the folks living in the camps.
  - He is here as of December 1st. Rental issues, vacant properties.
    - 76 cases - 48 resolved since December 1st. Usually junk + debris complaints.
      - If you're tossing something big, get a sticker and call the city for a pickup. Sometimes people steal these, so write your address on them and don't put them on until the day of your pickup.
- Rev. Rob Johnson: House District 34 – running as a Democrat – [Rev. Rob Johnson announces campaign for Iowa House District 34](#)
  - Knocked on 300+ doors in the past month. He's noticing that it's getting harder and harder for people to show up for their family, jobs, and friends. He thanked us for showing up for this meeting and this community.
  - Announced on Feb 19th that he was running for Ako Abdul-Samad's seat (with his endorsement). Ako built a strong path for Rob to run for office.
  - "I'm running because I don't know if you or someone you know has ever struggled with suicide."
  - He is the one who gets the call from these families – meet with them and comfort and help them figure out their next steps.
  - Running as a Democrat, but with the exit of a voice as strong as Ako, I believe that I can stand in that spot and be a voice just as loud to advocate for this community.
  - Has been doing the gas giveaway – \$28,000+ to 700+ people in our community. These 700+ people waited in line for gas. That is a big need that should be noted.

- He does not want to just win this election. Believes that if we turn out the vote in this district, that we have the capability to not only change this district, but we can change our congressional district and even our state.
- Power recognizes power. Without financial or political power, you need people power.
- [Drake University Update](#) - John Smith – Vice President of Advancement
  - Has served on the board in the past, is now our Drake University contact
  - March 1st: Drake made announcements that the faculty have recommended 8 majors to be eliminated. There is time for evaluation and feedback. In about a month or so the final decisions need to be made.
    - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelnietzel/2024/03/05/drake-university-proposes-cutting-13-academic-programs-to-close-budget-deficit/?sh=62014c856449>
    - 1.1 million fewer students enrolled in college than 2 years ago, Drake is not immune.
    - Other Universities are doing the same.
  - Basketball: Men’s team earned an NCAA bid, women step into their conference tournament this week.
    - There will be a Selection Sunday watch party at the Knapp Center on March 17th. All are welcome. Opens at 4:00 pm, show starts at 5:00 pm. Concession stands and the beer garden will be open. A kid zone including inflatables will be available for the younger Bulldog fans.
    - <https://godrakebulldogs.com/news/2024/3/13/mens-tennis-drake-mens-basketball-to-host-selection-show-watch-party-at-knapp-center.aspx>
  - Bucksbaum Lecture: Knapp Center March 27th at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Speaker: Liz Cheney. 6,000-7,000 people expected to be in attendance. Streaming watch party details TBD.
  - Spring Break right now, so no SAA students here. But SAA will be hosting on April 20th a cleanup day (Paul Morrison Spruce Up Day). The whole neighborhood is welcome to join in. 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Need the sign up link. WHERE.
  - The Merge project will start in June. Mix-use space + Toppling Goliath.
  - Griff I passed away. There will be a plaque to commemorate him in Bulldog Plaza.
- Chris Coleman: if you need anything, please always reach out to me.

## 7:28 pm - Board Business

- Executive Committee Update
  - Treasurer Review of February Financials - Lori
    - 1 business membership with Kitchen Spaces
    - Paid for an installment of our insurance with State Farm
    - Our membership on WildApricot is at its max. Need to increase
      - Increase to 500 cap of members. Additional ~\$600 to get it through this year.
      - Motion: Nick | Second: Jason | Motion carried unanimously
    - One of our domains is not functional. Need to sort out how to login and pay.
    - Our old system has been letting people know that their membership has expired. We can’t really turn it off, but it will eventually stop emailing people.
    - Each board member is going to be responsible for contacting 2 businesses to ask for a business membership.
  - Lower Beaver Neighborhood Association had a City Council Forum -
    - [City Council At-Large Candidate Forum 2024](#)

- Nominating Committee: can we do this all year instead of just around the elections? Checked by-laws and it is currently written to be time-bound for elections only for the last meeting. But that is just for elections. We can have the nominating committee running year-round for open spots and then. We have 3 open positions right now – all coming up for election in December.
  - Put the form back on the website. Have it set up to auto-email the application to our info@ email address.
- Committee Assignments – REVIEW goals and tasks:
  - Increase Capacity/Membership Committee
    - Postcard sent to everyone living in the Drake Neighborhood. Cost for a bulk mailing through Jason’s connection: \$2,100 or we could do it ourselves for \$1,200.
      - Sponsors could include: Jason, The Rook Room, Terry Taylor. Whatever we raise is how many we will send.
      - Community Greetings collaboration to be revisited.
  - Communications Committee - Colin
    - Meeting next Wednesday at 5:30 at DoughCo.
    - James (not present) - update on newsletter
    - Website updates will be made
  - Beautification Committee - Lori
    - June 14 (rain date is 15th) for the night parade for Art Week. Music and belly dancers are secured. May 18th will be sewing big banners to have up in the neighborhood. Workshops scheduled at HOPE and LSI’s Farmers Market (probably parks and rec too) to make the lanterns. The artists for the market are all secured. Farmers Market may be hard because that’s the harvest night usually for Saturday markets.
      - Put it on the events page. And make its own page.
    - Save the date for 515 Day (05/15) - boulevard planting and/or cleanup
    - Updates from neighborhood development projects
      - Invest DSM and NDC meeting with Courtney and Lori. Waiting on some material from Amber about the goals for the neighborhood. Learning about the high dollar amount homes. They are re-evaluating the landlord project. The Canary Lofts is still just empty and there is no understanding on when or if he will want to rent it, and to who.
- Disclosure of conflicts of interest of board members – no issues
- Duty of Loyalty - distributed to board members to sign and return
- Contract of Membership - distributed to board members to sign and return

**Meeting Adjourned 8:57 pm**