

Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch, Inc

[www.mfnw.org](http://www.mfnw.org)

Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2023 (By Jim Cline, Secretary MFNW)

**Executive Board Present:** President Cathy Mariscal, Vice President Brian Fritsch, Treasurer Priya Czubkowski, Jim Cline Secretary, and Members at Large Don Greif, Tom Gawronski, and Oksana Snyder.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Executive Board Report:** President Cathy Mariscal: We are planning for National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Village Park in Menomonee Falls from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. We need volunteers to make this a successful event. It is our largest event of the year to make money for our organization. Volunteers are needed. Please let Cathy know if you would like to help. Our Police Memorial for 2023 will be held in conjunction with NNO. It will be held at 5:30 PM at John Taylor Park directly across from Village Park.

**Treasure's Report:** Priya Czubkowski: We broke about even on our concession sales for the Fishing Derby. We did purchase extra items which will be used for our NNO concessions.

**New Business:** We will be having a planning meeting next week for our NNO. All those interested in helping are invited to attend. This year we will have three bounce houses for the kids and entertainment on the main stage by Andy Braun. Our beer garden will be open and volunteers from Lannon Lions Club will assist with beer sales. Our concessions will also be available by our NW Organization. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help. Our downtown Halloween event will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Our group will handle the concessions.

**Old Business:** We participated in the Fishing Derby with the Optimist Club on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There was a very nice turn out by the kids. Concession sales were down compared to past years.

**Guest Speaker:** Deb Schneider, with Faith Advocates Against Human Trafficking, discussed the terrible consequences of human trafficking as to the heinous assault upon our children and communities. It is important we all talk about human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of our children and young adults. Our children are the victims and it is all our responsibility to understand this crime and work to stop it. It is connected to addictions, our culture and social media. It is a white-collar crime fed by demand and highly profitable to those engaged. The key things to be aware of in our children:

- Changes in behavior: drop in grades, dress, attitude, social media obsession
- Changes in friends: new boy/girl friends, parties, drugs, gang affiliation
- Changes in lifestyle: money, material possessions, tattoos
- Changes in personality: fear, anxiety, depression, paranoia
- Physical changes: bruises, black eyes, cuts or other signs of abuse
- Social changes: hanging with single adult male and not with usual friends

The Waukesha County Anti-Human Task Force and Faith Coalition Against Sex Trafficking works to:

- Create awareness in our communities
- Keep our children safe
- Address demand
- Support victim transition and healing

Predators grooming through social media will:

- Work to appear familiar
- Develop a sense of trust
- Shower victim's with compliments
- Send electronic gifts
- Appeal to a young person's emotional state like loneliness or understanding
- Make promises for a better life
- Request pictures and sexual content

Ultimately, predators will need to isolate their victim from others, establish secrecy, create independence, seek to erode boundaries and inhibitions, then use blackmail and shame to obtain power and control over their victim.

Sex trafficking is prevalent due to demand and money. If you suspect trafficking or sexual exploitations, SAY SOMETHING!!!

Waukesha County Resources:

- The Women's Center 24-Hour Hotline: 262-542-3828
- Law Enforcement Non-Emergency Number: 262-446-5070
- Child Protective Services: 211

Encourage youth to tell their parents, school resource officer, counselor, teacher or trusted adult if they are aware or suspect something of this nature.

**Police Report:** Retail theft continues. Keep Lights on during night time hours. There have been a few prank instances of 'ding, dong, ditching'. Officers will call homeowners if they see a garage door open overnight. Our community co-op camera program is growing.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM