**Southwestern Hills Neighborhood General Meeting**

**Minutes of November 6, 2014 Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by President George Davis. Thanks was given to Brody Middle School for hosting the event. 63 members were present and all approved the election of Penny Harrison, Heather Carman, Anne Noah, Julie Calder and Jon Shelness to the Executive Board for two year terms 2015/2016. Davis thanked everyone for being involved in the neighborhood events. He explained our newsletters, website and email list for neighborhood information. He recognized Councilman Bill Gray from the Northwest ward who was visiting.

Sgt. Mark Miller (police liaison officer) stated only seven criminal events took place in our neighborhood during the past quarter. We are one of the safest neighborhoods in Des Moines. He also stated the success of the police dog program on a national level.

Cynde Fanter (President of “Friends of DM Parks”) Gave a brief overview of the organizations’ mission and how it has helped many people in Des Moines. Davis also added the many beginning swimmers Friends has helped through scholarships and how the Parks Department needs this organization.

Scott Sanders (City Manager) spoke about improving neighborhoods and housing stock. He spoke about his mission to explore other sources of city revenue as our tax base does not cover our expenses. He answered many questions from the membership regarding business owner’s taxes, sewers, dog problems in our neighborhood and city budget.

Chris Hensley (our ward lll council person) addressed many issues and explained procedures for neighbors to voice concerns. She suggested reviewing a neighborhood plan regarding vacant land on SW Mckinley. She explained why the airport authority was established and how members are selected. She explained how the Dart route on Park Ave had the least amount of ridership leading to removal of the route. She answered questions regarding “quiet bike streets”, city regulations on animals including chickens and private business grants on greenery.

Pat Kozitza (Public Works Director) is making his last neighborhood meeting as he is retiring in December. Jeff May will be our new liaison. Pat talked specifically about the emerald ash borer and the Ash Tree program in place. If you have a red dot on trees, on your parking it will be removed. Some selected trees will be treated. You may have a tree selected for removal reevaluated for treatment if you want. The City is paying about $100 per tree for treatment. Pat showed pictures from other cities regarding the tree canopy devastation. It is real and it is coming. He suggested removal of Ash Trees in your yard early as the cost will only become higher. He also issued handouts on selecting reliable tree people. The city has a tree replacement program available that still has opening for fall 2015.

The meeting guests answered many individual questions and stayed after the meeting addressing more questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM.

Respectfully submitted by Board member,

Heather Carman