Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

February 1, 2018

The General meeting was called to order at 6:30pm at Brody Middle School by SWHNA President George Davis. Several SWHNA Board members attended including, Nick VanPatten, Steve Utterson, Heather Carman, Jon Shelness and Joe Harrison. Sixty one neighborhood members attended.

Neighborhood Resource Officer, Lance Ripperger gave a police incident report regarding our neighborhood. Crime reports are still low, but, we have had some garage and car break-ins. Help your neighbor watch the area and report every suspicious activity or vehicle.

Ward Councilman, Josh Mandelbaum gave an overview of the “Penny Sales Tax” vote on March 6th. He stressed the need for this to be approved and areas impacted, including property tax relief, street improvements, neighborhood blight and public safety departments. Approval of this option sales tax would stay off a possible $1.50 property tax increase over the next five years.

Sam Carrell, Executive Director of the Water Works Foundation and Ted Corrigan, Chief Operations Officer of Des Moines Water Works, teamed up with an up to date presentation of the many added amenities happening on Water Works properties. The added features included three areas; a park feature with a trail, small stage and water areas, a large performance stage and an under Fleur Drive tunnel between Grays Lake and Water Works. The major stage would include concerts that could have 30,000+ spectators. It was explained that fifty dates or more could be used.

Many questions and concerns were addressed, including parking, flooding, repair, cleanup budgets and traffic flow during the long construction season. Other questions addressed concert sound direction, neighborhood impact along with Grays Lake impact and added police security.

The conversations and concerns were many and solutions were split among the attending residents. Sam and Ted were very good presenting facts and addressing concerns. The Tunnel and major concert stage drew the most questions.

A very unofficial straw vote was taken with those in attendance with the following results. 85% were for the park improvements including the walking and play area with the small stage. 70% were for the underpass/tunnel with an adjusted traffic plan during construction. 70% were for the major concert stage and the programming of major concerts.

It was a good meeting that involved all that attended. Many questions were addressed and many different people gave their opinions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM.

Respectfully,

George Davis for Ginny Renda, Secretary.