**Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association**

**General Meeting-November 9, 2017-Brody Middle School**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31PM by President George Davis. Board members present were: George Davis, Heather Carman Johnson (Treasurer), Penny Harrison (Vice President), Julie Calder, Joe Harrison, Steve Sarcone, Jon Shelness, Darlene Blake and Nick Van Patten. Special guests were: Lance Ripperger (Police Liaison Officer), Chris Hensley (City Council), Bill Gray (City Council), Connie Boesen (elector-city council), Josh Madelbaum (elector-city council), Barb Baker (Parks Department), Sam Carrell (Water Works Foundation) and 72 neighborhood guests.

Election of Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association Board Members for the two year term including 2018-2019 was presented. Elected members were Nick VanPatten, Steve Sarcone, George Davis, Ginny Renda, Darlene Blake and Steve Utterson.

Ward One Councilperson, Bill Gray was introduced and thanked everyone for their neighborhood involvement. He really enjoys coming to our neighborhood event and seeing neighbors work for the betterment of Des Moines. He thanked Chris Hensley for her leadership and service.

Resource Officer, Sgt. Lance Ripperger reported only five reported crimes in our 50321 area. He said other crimes, mostly vandalism, may not have been reported. It is so important to report any crime or criminal activity so police can follow up. Lincoln High School Police Officer, Debbie VanVelzen gave a report of the resource officer in schools which involves education and bridging communication between police and students.

Barb Baker with Des Moines Parks urged everyone to take online surveys regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A special meeting was held with SWHNA neighbors October 26th at Brody regarding the Master Plan. Thirty one neighbors gave their ideas and comments.

Councilperson Chis Hensley made her final appearance at our neighborhood meeting as she is retiring after twenty four years on the council. She was asked to highlight her years of service. She had her fingerprints on many projects including the many walking trails, East Village, art projects, including the Sculpture Garden and many businesses locating to Des Moines. Her secret passion was her part in the development of Grays Lake. The City Council at its last meeting voted to name the food terrace, at the lake, after her. She was very emotional in her final comments and received a standing ovation.

Newly elected City Council members were introduce. Josh Mandelbaum, our ward 3 councilman, thanked everyone and praised Chris Hensley for her work ethic and service. He stated he will continue to model that work ethic. Josh was very gracious and will always listen to our neighborhood. He announced his personal cell phone number and encouraged everyone to call if he can be of service. He will always be invited to our neighborhood meetings.

Connie Boesen, At-Large Councilperson, thanked everyone for their support and praised Chris Hensley’s many great years. Connie ran her campaign on open communication with neighborhoods and schools. She emphasized that neighborhood involvement is so important in our community. She plans on being a very active and listening councilperson. She also gave everyone her cell number.

Water Works Foundation presenter, Sam Carrell, gave an overview of the parks added amenities including walkways, playgrounds, food centers, an underground walkway and a very large capacity outdoor concert area. Many questions and statements on both sides of the proposed overview were discussed. Concerns about concert size and traffic issues were a main concern. Another issue was future maintenance, repair and who pays for this. Time was running short on this meeting and a majority of members wanted to address this at a future meeting in January specific to this issue. It was agreed that the SWHNA Board will set a future meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 8:41. Meeting minutes are recorded by George Davis, President for Ginny Renda, Secretary.