**Minutes of Southwestern Hills General Neighborhood Meeting**

**Thursday April 7, 2016 - 6:30 PM**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by neighborhood president George Davis. Attending board members were recognized including Julie Calder, Ginny Renda, Darlene Blake, Steve Utterson and Steve Sarcone. Special guests and speakers were recognized including Councilperson Chris Hensley, Councilman Bill Gray, Mayor Frank Cownie, neighborhood police officer Lance Ripperger, Park and Recreation representative Barb Baker and Jonathan Gano head of Public Works. Police Chief, Dana Wingert was also recognized and thanked for being there. The meeting was attended by over 110-120 neighbors who were involved with questions and neighborhood concerns.

Ben Bruner, representing QuikTrip, gave a presentation overview of the new store location being built on the southeast corner of Fleur and Watrous. The store will have expanded bay and store business including menu options. Neighbors are very concerned about what happens to the old QuikTrip store and property. No answers to that question were provided, as the property is leased by QuikTrip and not owned by them.

Neighborhood Resource Office, Lance Ripperger, provided crime statistic in the neighborhood that show our neighborhood is very low in crime. He provided safety tips that include calling 911 if a crime occurs and not confronting the criminal, let the police do that. Provide information from a safe distance and continue providing everything you see while on the phone. He provided his cell number (991-8414) for non-emergency situations only.

Barb Baker of Parks and Recreation talked of needed volunteers for “Trash Bash” on April 22nd This city wide event has really developed into a full community project with lots of company and citizen involvement.

Councilman Bill Gray had to leave to attend his own neighborhood meeting, but thanked us and Councilperson Hensley for the invitation to a very impressive and involved neighborhood meeting.

Councilperson Chris Hensley addressed many items that included in home childcare in the neighborhood and future adjustments that may happen. She talked about medical houses in residential neighborhoods and future zoning concerns regarding this. Night parking problems on the SW 7th bridge was discussed. Meetings are being set up with area business addressing the situation. She addressed the airport and the future Air-Guard development regarding helicopter training. This issue raised many questions from the neighborhood attendees. The airport has also redesigned their overview and the money costs involved. Chris also pointed out the Grand Ave. Bridge is being closed and rebuilt along with City Hall. She then answered many questions on several issues.

Public Works Director, Johnathan Gano, addressed street problems in the city and the neighborhood. This is a major issue in the neighborhood and generated many responses including neighbors that brought pictures and many concerns. Mr. Gano has a plan to improve many streets, but it is a major project that will take many years. He stated top covering a broken street is not a long term solution, as you still have a broken street. In the short term, potholes will be fixed within 48 to 72 hours, by calling 283-4950. There is a difference how potholes are fixed during cold weather and warm weather. Hot patches during warm weather are much more durable. Mr. Gano also addressed possible flood issues along George Flagg Pkwy that might increase street closure times. He answered many questions from the attending neighbors.

Mayor Cownie commented on the impressive number of neighbors attending the meeting and how Southwestern Hills Neighborhood was his home for many years. He addressed budget concerns and how the state plays a big role in that process. It is important to understand budget incomes regarding city issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

George Davis