Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association

General Meeting-April 28, 2022- Brody Middle School

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President George Davis. 96 people were in attendance. SWHNA Board members present included Penny Harrison, Heather Carman, Jon Shelness, Steve Utterson, Steve Sarcone, Nic VanPatten, George Davis and Joe Harrison. Guest Speakers include City Councilman, Josh Mandelbaum, Des Moines Assistant Director, SuAnn Donovan, and Police Sgt. Yanira Scarlett.

State legislative candidates Austin Baeth (district 36) and Eddie Mauro (district 30) were introduced. No other candidates were in attendance.

Kylie Gottschalk was introduced as the new liaison for the school district representing Brody Middle School. She looks forward to neighborhood involvement in shared community programs.

Lee Wheelock and Janice Steele with Des Moines Parks and Recreation were introduced. It was pointed out the large number of seasonal employees still needed for all programs. Lifeguards, ect.

Councilman Josh Mandelbaum presented a new housing concept in Des Moines. These are added living areas on your present properties. These added areas or detached housing areas allow families to have other family members occupy the property. Many rules are still being worked on and will be presented to council. He also addressed street repair issues and timely repairs needed.

SGT. Scarlett addressed safety when dealing with criminal issues. Our neighborhood is one of the safest areas in Des Moines. We still have issues with car break-ins. Scarlett wants your concerns sent to her so she can address them.

SuAnn Donovan presented the Block Challenge Grant which provides $2500 refunds in matching grants back to neighbors who form small teams of 5-10 neighbors for housing improvements. Applications open May 1st. Improvements must be outside and visible from the street. They include almost anything outside that each team may agree on. Each participate can get a $2500 refund until funds run out. SuAnn is also in charge of neighborhood code compliance. She answered many questions regarding neighborhood concerns about violations or clean-up issues regarding housing.

This was an excellent meeting with many questions addressed by our guest speakers. The numbers in attendance and the important issues discussed keeps our neighborhood meetings very important.

The meeting concluded at 8:20