**SOUTHWESTERN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2021-6:30PM**

Over seventy neighbors were welcomed to the General Meeting at Brody Middle School by SWHNA Board members. Neighbors were encouraged to ask our guest speakers questions after their presentations. The election of SWHNA Board Members for the 2022/2023 two-year term was held. Elected Board Members were Ginny Renda, Steve Sarcone, George Davis, Nick VanPatten and Steve Utterson.

Board Members for the 2021/2022 two-year term were recertified as the November 2020 was postponed because of Covid. Recertified were Joe Harrison, Jon Shelness, Heather Carman, Pete Conrad and Penny Harrison.

**MAYOR FRANK COWNIE**

Mayor Cownie made several announcements.

1. Thomas Beck would be open as early as Friday, November 19,2021.
2. Fleur Drive will be finished up to Watrous Avenue by the end of the year.
3. George Flag PKWY will be resurfaced next year.
4. Mayor Cownie also commented on Southwestern Hills Neighborhood’s involvement and participation in neighborhood activities, meetings, and events.

**MATT MCCOY, POLK COUNTY SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor McCoy said it was important to protect the community. He stated that Polk County has a strong Department of health. Over 2700 children were vaccinated last week and over 90 percent of the people in Polk County over 65 have been vaccinated. He also said Iowa leads the nation in an aging population. He praised the involvement of Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association and provided handouts regarding Polk County grants and awards.

**CARL VOSS, DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL**

Carl Voss stated the City Council had a daylong session devoted to investing in neighborhoods.

Mr. Voss discussed the Block Grant Challenge which is an incentive for neighbors to join as small groups to make exterior improvements on their properties. Invest DSM helped 147 Des Moines homeowners with exterior projects.

The next grant cycle will open May 1, 2022.

**DANA WINGERT DES MOINES POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Winger was warmly received and thanked for his service. The police department has spent time on de-escalation training for police officers. Chief stated the police department was committed to having diversity in the department and was actively working to achieve this goal.

Chief Wingert stated that Des Moines was a great city with great neighborhoods.

**SCOTT SANDERS DES MOINES CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Sanders said the City of Des Moines has helped a significant number of citizens with funds for rental help during the pandemic. He also discussed the airport improvement project and the homebuilding project on Watrous Avenue. He is very much an advocate for neighborhood involvement and ideas.

The meeting concluded at 8:35pm with City officials staying after the meeting talking with anyone who had an additional question or concern.

Minutes submitted by Ginny Renda Secretary of SWHNA