**Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association**

**General Meeting - April 5, 2018**

The General Meeting, hosted at Brody Middle School, was called to order at 6:30PM by George Davis. The attendance exceeded 190 people. Southwestern Hill’s Board members were introduced: Darlene Blake, Ginny Renda, Jon Shelness, Penny Harrison, Steve Utterson, Joe Harrison, Steve Sarcone and Nick VanPatten.

Special recognized members and guests included Eddie Mauro (running for US Congress), Connie Boesen (City Council), John Sarcone (County Attorney), Sgt. Lance Ripperger (DM Police Resource Officer). An announcement regarding the Brody Student Talent Show on May 17th was made (Tonya Richards-sponsor).

Our 3rd Ward Councilman, Josh Mandelbaum gave a street repair report. He highlighted streets that would be resurfaced in the next year or two and stated the SW connector was not in the immediate or distant future. Josh was very concerned regarding the failure of the 1-cent sales tax. This will definitely slow down projected street concerns. He addressed questions from the members regarding blight and bicycle concerns regarding rider rules and their safety.

State Senate (district 21) candidate Claire Celsi presented an overview of her goals if she is elected. Goals include public education support, mental health concerns, renewable energy and reversing Medicare privatization. No other candidates responded or requested time.

Polk County (District 5) Supervisor John Mauro and primary challenger Matt McCoy were invited to exchange ideas in our neighborhood forum. Candidate Lou McDonald sent an email stating he was dropping out of the race. The open forum questions included many areas and expressed a difference in delivery methods from both John and Matt. John still lives in the neighborhood and Matt grew up on the Southside, where his family ran Sellers Hardware for many years. Matt gave an overview of his experience in mental health and food support issues on a State level. He also wants the county to have a voice in clean water. He felt his transition from State to local government would be an advantage. John highlighted his long career in the county and pointed out that when he was first elected Prairie Meadows was near bankruptcy and the county budget was in dire straits. It now has an excess. He gave an overview of the millions of dollars he has been instrumental in supporting toward community projects. He stated he has been an advocate for families, growth and public safety and this will be his last term, but wants to finish his mission.

Neighborhood questions were all addressed and the embracing of different ideas by the audience was well received. The meeting had lots of positive comments from neighborhood members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17PM

Minutes summited by Ginny Renda, Board Secretary.