**Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association**

**General Meeting-April 4, 2019-Brody Middle School**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by SWHNA President, George Davis. Other SWHNA Board members present were; Nick VanPatten, Ginny Renda, Steve Sarcone, Jon Shelness, Penny Harrison and Joe Harrison. Speaking guests included; Matt McCoy (Polk County Supervisor), Frank Cownie (Mayor), Connie Boesen (City Council), Scott Sanders (City Manager), Jenny Richmond (Parks/Recreation), Lance Ripperger (Police Department) and Carla Schumacher (D.M. Water Works). Over 112 neighbors attended the meeting.

Opening announcements included a special thank you and a hardy applause to the Des Moines Police Department for all the efforts they do to make our neighborhood and community safe.

A neighborhood community involvement project, sponsored by Walnut Creek Church will be on Saturday, May 25th from 9AM-12PM. If anyone knows of a neighbor in need, please contact George Davis and he will forward information to Walnut Creek.

Jennifer Walden recognized Mike Parton as a “Good Neighbor” for all his efforts removing neighbors snow in the 2800 block of SW Thornton throughout the winter.

Jenny Richmond, with Parks and Recreation, highlighted programs offered through out the summer and the Mayors Annual Bike/Walk event on Saturday, April 20th. She also stated a constant need for pool lifeguards and the application process.

Carla Schumacher, with Des Moines Water Works, reviewed the procedure for new water lines to be installed along Park Avenue this summer. Park Avenue will be closed from SW 32nd to SW 37th after the Wakonda Charity Golf Classic, until school starts in August, weather permitting. Neighbors will have home access, but garbage pickup and mail delivery may be altered. Traffic will detour to George Flagg Parkway.

Matt McCoy, Polk County Supervisor, was very thorough discussing tax assessments and protest procedures if you disagreed with the assessment. You have until June 5th to file a protest. He discussed the overcrowding of our jail and a relationship to mental health. Mental health issues and homelessness are top priorities with him, and he is holding an open forum on April 28th. He distributed a handout highlighting, improved neighborhoods, veteran issues, food pantries and public safety.

Mayor Frank Cownie thanked the many citizens that supported the 1-cent sales tax vote. He wants continued citizen input on all issues. He told of the severe damage to Gray’s Lake and how repair is in process. He praised the Police Department and the difficult job they do. He addressed many questions from neighbors present. He also praised SWHNA involvement.

Councilwoman, Connie Boesen, talked about neighborhood improvements and being connected. She highlighted sidewalks along Fleur Drive and walking safety. A vote of members attending the meeting, showed that 65% were still in favor of sidewalks on both sides of Fleur Drive. She addressed projects that will be coming because of the “sales tax” approval. Neighbors asked several questions regarding the neighborhood.

City Manager, Scott Sanders, announced that public safety and neighborhood issues are top priorities. He totally understands the pothole issue and agrees that streets seem to be twice as bad as in previous years. City road crews have this issue as number one. Until hot asphalt plants open in mid-April, we are limited to just filling holes. The Fleur Drive project is underway and he went through the time frame of replacement. He addressed many questions from attending neighbors and did a good job of explaining current issues.

Lance Ripperger, Police Liaison Officer, gave an overview of crime in the neighborhood. We are still very low in reported incidences. Prevention is key. Do not address criminals in person but allow the police to handle it. Sgt Ripperger received applause for his involvement in the neighborhood.

The meeting concluded at 8:33 PM.

Submitted by Ginny Renda, Secretary SWHNA.