**SOUTHWESTERN HILLS GENERAL MEETING**

**November 15, 2023-6:30PM-Brody Middle School**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by SWHNA President George Davis with 65 neighbors present. Current Board members were introduced, George Davis, Nick VanPatten, Ginny Renda, Jón Shelness, Joe Harrison, Pete Conrad Steve Utterson, Penny Harrison, and Steve Sarcone. Other guests introduced included Lee Wheelock (DM Parks & Rec), Chris Hensley (former councilperson). Speakers introduced included Ted Corrigan (CEO DM WaterWorks), Officer Alberto Marquez (Resource Officer DM Police), Councilman Josh Mandelbaum, Councilman Carl Voss, Mayor Frank Cownie and City Manager Scott Sanders.

Five SWHNA board members were elected to a two-year term (2024/2025). George Davis, Steve Sarcone, Steve Utterson, Ginny Renda and Nick VanPatten were elected by membership.

**Officer Marquez** stated our neighborhood had about 50 case reports last month. This is very low compared to other neighborhoods. He also stated to never leave your car running as you run inside to do an errand. He provided his cell number, 515-971-2539, for neighborhood non-emergency concerns. Other general police numbers are 283-4811 or 911.

**Ted Corrigan** (CEO WaterWorks) gave an excellent overview of the new Central Iowa Water Works and how that shared community water supply will work. Members of the new Board will each have a vote on all items, with Des Moines having two votes. Neighbors have concerns regarding future water cost and infrastructure issues. Members feel Des Moines is bringing lots of assets to the new program.

**Josh Mandelbaum** (City Council) gave a complete overview of the financial problems facing DART Public Transportation. Our community is facing routes being cut, services being reduced and infrastructures being on hold. They must have added financial help to succeed. Neighbors had questions about continued problems and possibly a new system to be reviewed.

**Carl Voss** (City Council) addressed street improvements and bringing local businesses back to neighborhoods. He expressed zoning rules that may have to be addressed to help with businesses.

**Scott Sanders** (City Manager) presented how budgets are researched and presented to the public for approval. He addressed the problem of homeless camps and the large growing numbers of these camps. Legally a ten-day notice must be posted and then campers may appeal. He also stated we have an increasing need for mental health options and housing situations. This concern will continue to increase. He gave us all something to be concerned about.

**Mayor Cownie** gave a thank you to all people in attendance and how important neighborhood involvement is. He will continue to be an advocate for neighborhood associations. He is also a neighbor in the Southwestern Hills Neighborhood.

The meeting included concerns that will be addressed in 2024 including housing, zoning, street improvements, and business backfill.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM with many speakers staying to answer individual concerns.

Minutes submitted by,

Ginny Renda, Secretary.

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