

Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association
Board Of Directors Meeting
May 16, 2011

The May 2011 SWHNA Board Of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by President George Davis in the conference room at Wakonda Christian Church.

Board Members Present:

Josh Carman , Steve Utterson, George Davis, Tom Reynolds, Keith Belling, Dennis Trollope, Penny Harrison, Ginny Renda.

Approval Of The April 18, 2011 Board Minutes and the General Meeting Minutes held on April 21 were approved. Copies of these Minutes were previously emailed to all Board Members.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was not received.

The Designated Neighborhood Application was discussed. This involves the necessary information for the SWHNA to apply to the City for CDBG grants for community improvements. Christine Hensley, Des Moines City Councilwoman has contacted SWHNA advising that the City will be soliciting neighborhood associations to apply to become a designated neighborhood. What this means is that the City staff would work closely with the neighborhood association to determine what are the priorities of the neighborhood and how to make them happen. SWHNA may wish to address infrastructure items, i.e. curbs, sidewalks, etc. Bottom line is that the City would spend a fair amount of money in our neighborhood to make improvements. Application would be required. Also if granted citizens would be required to be engaged and work side by side in developing the plan. Application completion would be needed this summer. The Board considered this item and George Davis, President, will research the particulars for possible action by the Board.

The abandoned gasoline station/convenience store at 42nd & Park Avenue was discussed. Some vandalism was reported at this location within the past few weeks. It appears that there may be positive developments in addressing this neighborhood eyesore.

Movie night sponsorship was discussed and it appeared that the Board is in agreement to assisting the Des Moines Parks And Recreation Department in this effort which would included showing an outdoor movie at one of our neighborhood parks. George Davis is to search out possibilities for this project. SWHNA neighbors would possibly provide pop and popcorn treats availability and general cleanup of the park following the movie. Consideration will be given at the June SWHNA Board Meeting.

The General Meeting minutes were forwarded to each Board Member previously. General comments were received concerning its great value.

The Board discussed School Boundary Debate sponsorship. This involves a possible upcoming election ballot item that would suggest that the Des Moines School System Board Members would be elected on a Ward Basis instead of by the current protocol. The value of SWHNA sponsorship in a formal debate of the issue was discussed. George Davis, President, will research further exploration of the possibility of SWHNA sponsorship. Possible venues considered for contact would be The Izaak Walton League, Wakonda Christian Church, or AIB among other possible locations.

New Business included the resignation of Keith Belling from the SWHNA Board. Keith and his family will be moving out of the city shortly. Keith's eleven-year presence on the Board has been very beneficial to the neighborhood. His diligent and faithful service has made our community a much better place. It is with regret the Board receives this news but we all wish to thank him for his past participation and wish him the best in the future.

New Business item concerning the Fleur Avenue traffic detour entanglements at SW 30th Street and George Flagg Boulevard caused by autos making left turns from 30th Street west onto George Flagg Blvd. during rush hour was discussed. It was suggested that "No Left Turn" signs be considered at this intersection to lessen the congestion in the area.

Meeting was adjourned.

Secretary
Dennis Trollope

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