

Santa Clara Community Organization
Executive Board minutes
Thursday, November 7, 2019
Messiah Lutheran Church
3280 River Road, Eugene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. There were 14 in attendance, including 6 Board members. Introductions were called for. Ann Vaughn moved the minutes from the October 3rd meeting be approved as submitted; George Price seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements:

- Jerry Finigan announced an invitation from Northeast Neighbors to attend their general meeting November 12th to participate in a presentation by ODOT and the City of Eugene regarding the redesign of Beltline Highway.
- Cliff Gray introduced himself as a candidate for the City Council for the seat currently held by Clare Syrett.
- Julie Fischer gave handouts promoting the community celebration of the River Road-Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan Wednesday, November 13. Mary Leontovich described what the plan is and why this iteration of community involvement is very important at this time.
- Joel Robe and George Price described their recent initiative to educate citizens in the River Road and Santa Clara area regarding personal preparation for disaster. Joel described how networking with disaster preparedness experts and coordinator is important and George handed out bags filled with handbooks and information as to how people might begin their personal preparations. Joel and George announced an open meeting on disaster preparedness on Saturday, November 9th at the River Road Recreation center.
- Kate Perle encouraged people to attend the “Fill Your Pantry” event on Sunday, November 10 where bulk produce for winter storage will be available for purchase.

Reports:

- Kate Perle gave an update on the possible preservation of the historic schoolhouse on River Loop 2 as a community building. She gave the history of what has been done with Eugene Parks and Recreation Department toward this end and said that she and Tim Foelker have met with the Eugene Building and Permit department about this. They do not see serious impediments in the way of rehabilitating the building. She said trees removed from the fir grove area was claimed by SCCO and stand ready to be milled for a reconstruction of the building if we decide to go forward with it. There was a discussion about the project. Gary Haliski suggested that leaving the building in place might restrict planning of the new community park. Julie Fischer said there are not really any funds for developing such a park in the current bonds so it will be a number of years before planning for this park will begin, and Ann Vaughn suggested the community will need a community building in the mean time. Kate indicated that such a community center will be for the community “glue” to make the future park become a community focus. Tim said the next step with Planning and Development is to submit some rough drawings as to how the building might be reconfigured and updated.

- Community Garden: In the absence of Peter Thurston, a short report was given by Jerry Finigan and Tim Foelker about what has been occurring at the garden. There is a composting and cover crop workshop scheduled at the garden on Saturday, November 16.
- Friends of Awbrey Park: Jesika Heikkinen reported that the work party on Saturday, November 2nd was joined by a fraternity and some new volunteers and there was a lot accomplished in removing English ivy and blackberries.
- Land use: Kate reported that there weren't too many land use applications during the last month. There was a lot validation for Terra Linda Park; a final application for the River Road/Hunsaker LTD Transfer Station; a lot division at Irvington and Byron making one lot into two, and a lot division of one lot into three on Wilkes Drive.
- River Road/Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan: next steps besides the November 13th community meeting included an update to the Eugene Planning Commission on November 15, a discussion of urban reserve planning at the Eugene Planning Commission on January 25th; and an update on the Neighborhood Plan to the Lane County Planning Commission on December 3rd.

Old Business:

- Dawn Leslie nominated herself to fill the vacant Board seat that will be up for election in January. The Board approved by consensus that Dawn should fill the vacant seat with the provision that this decision be affirmed at the general meeting in December.
- Gary Haliski asked if there has been any decision on a final hate and bias statement for SCCO. Kate responded that this still needs to be done.

New Business:

- Jerry asked that SCCO reaffirm its membership in Eugene Neighbors Inc for the upcoming year. He described what ENI is and why it is in the interest of neighborhoods to join. Tim Foelker moved that SCCO continue its membership in ENI, Kate seconded. Motion passed.
- Jerry suggested that SCCO consider forming its own 501(c)3, especially if we may try to enter into contracts like the one that would be necessary with the City of Eugene if SCCO tries to attain the historic schoolhouse.

Other matters: Mary Leontovich asked Cliff Gray to summarize his priorities as a possible City Counselor. Cliff discussed his experience as a union organizer for employees of the Greyhound corporation.

Jerry called for time logs of volunteer hours contributed for the month of October to be turned in.

meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

submitted,
Jerry Finigan, secretary