

Santa Clara Community Organization
Executive Board meeting minutes
Thursday, June 7, 2018
Messiah Lutheran Church
3280 River Road

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the vice chair, Rebecca Marx. There were 20 in attendance, including 8 Board members. Patrick Kerr moved the April minutes be approved as submitted, Tim Foelker seconded. Motion passed. Patrick also moved the March minutes be approved as submitted, George Price seconded. Motion passed.

Presentation: Safe Routes to Schools. Sarah Mazze, Eugene 4J coordinator for Safe Routes to Schools was introduced. She described her role of identifying areas that are problematic for students to walk and bike to school safely and some of the mitigations that might be applied. The District is especially concerned with safety around Awbrey Park Elementary School. Attendees made a number of suggestions about the problem of traveling Santa Clara by bicycle – especially for North Eugene students—and what might be considered as solutions concerning Awbrey Park was discussed.

Presentation: Changes in recycling practices. Carolyn Stein, Executive Director of BRING explained why comingling recycling is not working and why unclean recycling streams have provoked buyers of recycled materials in China to cease accepting plastics. She instructed the group, with the exception of plastic milk jugs and small-necked drink bottles, for the time being we should no longer put plastics in recycling bins. She said these plastics comprise about 10% of garbage. She said that in land fills, organic materials like unused food is the bigger problem. She took questions from the group and left some BRING newsletters for further reference.

Announcements:

Jerry Finigan referenced the recent RG article about the partnership between Santa Clara Fire and Lane Fire Authority to take affect July 1. This partnership allows for a closer sharing of resources between these two volunteer groups.

Becca Marx indicated that Gary Haliski is handing off to her the web duties and asked that in the future content for the web page be funneled to her.

Reports:

- Land Use – Jerry said there is not much to report. There was an application for unimproved easement vacation for a half lot acre on Swain Lane.

- Becca and Gary Wildish reported on progress toward the construction of the kiosk at the planned off-leash dog area at Lone Oak park. Gary said the kiosk might be a reality in a month. The rest of the work on the park will occur this summer and Becca will organize volunteers as needed.

- George Price asked about the Santa Clara position on the possibility of a regional park district as it was discussed at his table at the Neighborhood Planning workshop. Jerry responded that SCCO has taken a position of supporting a feasibility study for a regional park. An ad-hoc Parks working group has met twice to try to strategize how this study might be funded.

Senator James Manning:

The Senator said he is scheduled to have a discussion with City Manager, John Ruiz and will bring up the issue of a regional park, and will also approach Pat Farr about the issue. He also will follow up with the County as to how they plan to disperse the Safe Routes To Schools funds that has been allotted to counties. The Senator said is he is also monitoring the progress of the Beltline rebuild. He referenced the problems Salem is having with its drinking water and we should all not be complacent about our own water, but keep emergency water always on hand.

- Neighborhood Planning project: Jerry reported that about 200 Santa Clara and River Road residents assembled June 6 at North Eugene to consider the work done by the working groups since last fall to refine the direction for these working groups as the process moves forward. There is a second community meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 10 to accommodate those who couldn't make the first one. The community will be called together in the Fall after more work is done during the summer.

- Peter Thurston reported on events at Luper Cemetery over the Memorial Day weekend.

- Patrick Kerr reported on the Awbrey Park Wildflower Walk and Celebration occurring April 28 and that about 400 people showed up to enjoy the park, the kiosks, the music and the hot dogs. This is the 10th annual Celebration and the first one that combined the efforts of the Friends of Awbrey Park and the Santa Clara Community Organization.

- Santa Clara Community Garden: Peter Thurston reported that all 38 garden plots have been engaged for this season.

Old Business: none

New Business: Betty Grant contacted SCCO about a documentary film about the homelessness problem – *Under The Bridge* – that she said should have a wide audience in the area and asked how a showing might be held. It was suggested that Emerald Park might be approached to host and advertise a screening.

Other matters: Jim Morrison reported uncovering several homeless camps when he helped to remove some myrtle trees between Ivy Meadows and Gainsborough. There was evidence that small children were cohabitating these encampments. He said the incident revealed several problems: who is responsible for shared vegetation, and how does a community avoid the “broken window” syndrome where one violation encourages others—in this case, illegal encampments. This was suggested as a future agenda item.

meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

submitted,

Jerry Finigan, secretary