

Santa Clara Community Organization
General Membership minutes
April 3, 2025
Messiah Lutheran Church

Those in attendance – 20 (7 Board members, 12 residents, 1 other)

<u>Board members</u>	<u>residents</u>	<u>presenter</u>	*hybrid attendees
Kate Perle	Matt Irvin (presenter)	Ariel Lissman	
Kevin Reed	Jackie Hall	Jim Weidemaier	
Jerry Finigan	Charlotte Hennessey	Brent Farlie	
Terri Reed	Raevyn Thompson*	Jeff Reed-Mansperger	
Louie Vidmar	Tim Foelker*	Todd Weaver	
Patti Zachary	Artemus Harper	Patty Driscoll	
Matt Vohs	Gary Wildish		

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by the Chair, Kate Perle. She summarized SCCO and its mission and called for self-introductions. She introduced Ariel Lissman, executive director of the Eugene Parks Foundation. Ariel began his presentation by giving a short resumé and how he became involved with the Foundation. He described the Eugene Parks Foundation as a public-private partnerships in which private funding supplements public funding for parks. This gives a greater public voice in decision-making and allows for greater entrepreneurship and innovation. This also has an element of legacy-giving. The Foundation advocates for greater community engagement with their parks. The Foundation has a 30-year capital plan in order to attain this goal. The Foundation has prioritized Bethel and Santa Clara in this plan, hoping to better engage the community with games in the parks (especially targeting Awbrey Park), educational programs in the parks, and other activities to make better use of parks. Other focus projects in the plan includes connecting trails on the ridgeline to make one long continuous trail, and extending trails through Santa Clara, past the airport and connecting with the Amazon trail system. This presentation was followed by a question/answer opportunity and concluded at 7:57 p.m.

Kate introduced Matt Irvin of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. He described the ongoing transitional housing project at the Church. The project began in June 2022 with a \$60,000 grant from PakTek to establish 2 small camper/cottages on Church property. The cottages arrived June 15, 2023 and in the meantime Church members contacted neighbors to get community buy-in. Insurance was obtained and a caseworker was engaged. Residents for the cottages were vetted. Residents were asked to help with the Church's food pantry and were told the housing was temporary – no longer than two years. The structures also include a shower and port-a-potty. The first two residents moved in January 2024. A third unit will be established in the fall of this year. The presentation was followed with a question/answer session.

Kate opened the business meeting by asking for a motion to approve the February 6 minutes. Terri moved, Kevin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Terri reported on the success of the Food For Lane County food drive. Kate announced that at the March Executive Board meeting the Board elected Kate as president of the Board, Terri as vice president, and Jerry Finigan as secretary/treasurer. The Board also confirmed Kate's appointment of Patti Zachary to

the open Board seat. Kate announced that SCCO has been invited to the April 7 River Road Community Organization meeting which will feature a discussion about next steps for the Neighborhood Plan. Kate gave a report of upcoming events in Santa Clara through May. Terri announced that the Concert In The Park will again be at Awbrey Park and is scheduled for August 3 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. She will soon schedule a planning meeting for the event for those who want to help. Kate reported that accidents at the intersection of Beacon and River Road continue. She said the City hired a consultant to determine whether a round-about is feasible there and it was determined that it was. Kate suggested that in order to move this up on the capital improvement program, our advocacy would be crucial. Jerry Finigan reported that the Awbrey Park Wildflower Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and said the last work party is this coming Saturday (April 5) and will focus on readying the Park for the event.

Kate reported on active land use applications:

- annexation of 1.02 acres of Messiah Lutheran Church land off Blazer Avenue.
- lot line adjustment on this land to create a larger developable lot.
- 3362 Wisteria – bringing existing home into code compliance
- Ava Haven – 9 lot subdivision just south of Peace Village
- The Lucy – 850 Hunsaker: 36 units of affordable housing (this will include

Three 3-story buildings and one community building

Kate asked for suggestions for future programs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted,

Jerry Finigan, secretary