

Santa Clara Community Organization
Executive Board meeting
April 1, 2021 (via Zoom)

Those in attendance – total 18 (8 Board members, 10 others)

Board:

Tim Foelker
Jerry Finigan
Patrick Kerr
Dawn Lesley
Kate Perle
George Price
Louie Vidmar
Matt Vohs

Community members:

Gary Haliski
Mary Leontovich
Peter Thurston
Ann Vaughn
Kamau Gatson
Judie Gatson

guests: Dan Isaacson, Ian Winbrock
Harry Sanger, Jackson Kellogg

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by the chair, Kate Perle. She called for introductions of those present.

Kate introduced Ian Winbrock and Jackson Kellogg – co-chairs of the Neighborhood Leaders Council. Using slides, Ian described the vaccination program for the vulnerable population in his Whiteaker neighborhood (Nothing About Us, Without Us). This program used a neighborhood based approach to offer local vaccination clinics. He said other neighborhoods might be able to do this offering 250 to 500 vaccinations on 2nd and 4th Sundays from May through November. Also he said that Whiteaker has a surplus of hand sanitizer they could share with other neighborhoods.

Q & A:

Mary L. suggested that one of Santa Clara's vulnerable or overlooked populations are Latinx farm workers. Patrick K. said he has been helping Lane County Public Health with its mass vaccinations and he might be useful setting up contacts with Lane County Health. Kate suggested there might be clinics set up even if it is not done every two weeks.

Kate introduced Dan Isaacson, incoming local president of National Association of Mental Illness who discussed NAMI's suicide prevention initiative. He said the suicide rate in Lane County is 48% greater than in the country at large. He said discussion of suicide has been a challenge because of the stigma assigned to it.

Old Business:

Dawn reported on the progress of the forming Social Justice Committee. She said the current group working on this is composed of herself, Gary, and Martha Johnson. She offered a preliminary purpose statement that the committee might use in drafting a mission statement. Jerry moved that the SCCO Board formally form a Social Justice Committee, Gary seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate said the current nominating committee charged with finding qualified applicants for the first board for the Santa Clara Community Foundation is composed of herself, Jerry, Tim, and Patrick. She encouraged others to join. The first task of this committee will be to create a form for applicants to submit for their nomination.

New Business:

Election of Board officers – Patrick moved that current officers be re-elected to another term. Dawn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Nieman is interested in forming a land use committee – a task currently handled by just one person – Kate. Michael was not able to attend this meeting so it was agreed to postpone this item until next month.

Announcements:

Bystander/Upstander training will be offered again. e-mail to Judy Boles to get on the waiting list to find out when it will be offered again (judy.boles@comcast.net)

The last work party for the season will take place this Saturday (April 3). At that time Friends of Awbrey Park will begin planning for the season finale/celebration. This year it will be a self-guided tour set for Saturday, May 1.

Peter reported on the Santa Clara Community Garden. He said he is in the process of working with St. Matthew's on a new written agreement between the Church, Huerto, and SCCO. He said he would probably need 10 minutes at the May meeting to approve the contract that has been worked out. Patrick suggested to Peter that SCCO might talk to Huerto to see if we might help facilitate their community in accessing vaccinations.

Kate reported there is not much new to report regarding land use applications – just the Quail's Nest property which is ongoing.

Dawn said there is nothing new to report from the “bat phone”.

Kate reported that next up for the Neighborhood Plan is an upcoming report to the Lane County Planning Commission.

Kate said she has been working with Parks and Open Spaces through Regan Watchess to establish a mobile home micro site near the old schoolhouse to help with the security of the schoolhouse. If Parks approves this idea, the next step would be to consult adjacent neighbors. Kate reported that Mark Kosmos indicated that the timeline for the Community Park might be pushed back.

Kate called for a follow-up discussion regarding an interest in setting up neighborhood vaccine clinics. Tim responded that he thinks the amazing progress the County is making is sufficient. Dawn suggested we do an outreach to see if there is a community interest in this. Jerry said that it was easy for him to schedule both vaccine doses using his computer but that he doesn't believe the fellow living in a tent on Irvington Drive 200 feet from his house is sitting on his computer scheduling an appointment. Patrick said we might outreach to the County to see if they might help facilitate smaller, more localized and more trustworthy sites. Tim said he agrees and that we need to find a way of engaging our more disconnected communities and come up with a plan where they might be served. Patrick said he agreed and also to not forget our agricultural worker neighbors. Kate asked if we should pursue the idea of teaming up with the River Road Community Organization. Patrick said we should and that we might consider starting small and working from there. Kate said she would talk to RRCO about this. Patrick said that at this point most of the elderly have been vaccinated. Dawn responded that she would not be surprised if there are still 20% of the elderly that needs to be vaccinated.

Other matters: Judie suggested we might consider a project of community clean-up. Also she asked if it would be okay to post our monthly meetings in her Spanish posts. There was unanimous agreement to this. Louis said the Irving Grange is still planning the Scottish Festival, though it will be scaled down. Peter announced there will be a May 18 funding issue on the ballot for the Extension Service. Jerry reminded people to turn in their volunteer hours for the month of March.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

submitted,
Jerry Finigan