

Santa Clara Community Organization  
General Meeting minutes  
October 7, 2021 (via Zoom)

Those in attendance – total 25 (6 Board members and 19 others)

Board

Kate Perle  
Jerry Finigan  
Tim Foelker  
Dawn Lesley  
Matt Vohs

Presenters

Becky Taylor  
Johanna Costa

Others

Rob Fisette  
Harry Sanger

Community members

Gary Haliski  
Mary Leontovich  
Peter Thurston  
Darcy Davis  
Lance Garner  
Savannah Forester  
Ben Christensen  
Jesse Harris  
Xia Wang  
Martha Johnson  
Gay Kramer Dodd  
Rachel Debuse  
Kamau Gatson  
Brenda Wills  
Laoni Davis

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. She called for introductions of those present.

Kate introduced Becky Taylor, planner with Lane County to give an update on the construction of Beaver-Hunsaker. She said that a pedestrian's death on that road prompted funding to improve safety. She shared her screen to show the widening under progress. There has been a speed reduction to make it safer for nearby long-term care facilities and she said this has pleased adjoining residents. She showed designs for future plans and said in the future a bike path from Beaver to Wilkes will be created. This was followed by a question/answer session. Kate said the November SCCO meeting will feature the plans for the future bike path.

Kate introduced Johanna Costa representing the Oregon Department of Justice Hate Crimes and Bias Response program, created by Senate Bill 577. Since its formation, gender identity has been added to protected classes. Protected classes now include disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, race and color. Johanna gave detail as to what actually constitutes a bias incident. She said that a state law now mandates that law enforcement agencies are now required to report incidents to the State bias hotline. She said language is not enough to be considered a bias crime, the incident must involve physical threats and specific, imminent fear of physical harm. The hotline number may be used by anyone, not just law enforcement. The number is 1-844-924-BIAS(2427). Johanna gave some tips about how to deal with law enforcement when reporting such crimes and showed language that is now being used in training law enforcers when dealing with hate crime victims. This was followed by a question/answer session.

Dawn moved the minutes from the September 2 meeting be approved as submitted. Patrick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Dawn called for action on an issue tabled at the September meeting – whether SCCO should sign on to the letter drafted by the River Road Social Justice Committee. The SCCO Social Justice Committee felt the testimony that SCCO has already submitted to the City should be enough. It was decided by consensus that SCCO will not be signing on to the River Road letter.

Reports:

- Santa Clara Community Foundation. Tim reported that all the paperwork needed to apply for an IRS ENI is complete and is ready to be sent. Donations have been covered by the non-profit umbrella since the filing of nonprofit corporation papers with the State. The Foundation Board meets every third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- Santa Clara Community Garden. Peter reported that the agreement with St. Matthews has been finalized and the compost area in the garden has been relocated.
- Friends of Awbrey Park. Gary said the first work party of the season was a great success, partly because of the involvement of the Boy Scouts.
- Our incident-report phone (Bat Phone). Dawn said there has been no activity on the phone during the last month wondered about retiring it rather than to keep on paying for something not being used. Ben suggested we could attach it to a free phone service like Google. It was decided to discuss this next month.
- Land Use. Kate said there have been just two applications. One on River Loop #1 for a 2.2 acre zone change – possibly in preparation for a future subdivision. And a zone verification on Banner. Kate said the River Road and Santa Clara community organizations have asked for a “good neighbor” agreement in connection with the new Navigation Center on River Avenue designed to provide 75 beds for the most vulnerable homeless people. This is a place to help stabilize their lives and find more permanent housing for them.

Other: Kate reported there has been some concern and organizing by residents on Admiral Street regarding the impact the planned new bike path would have on their community. Kate said that context sensitive planning might preclude sidewalks, curbs and gutters on their street. Kate has scheduled a presentation of discussion about this in November and has invited Reed Dunbar

Kate referenced the County funding for River Road and Santa Clara newsletters and wondered about looking for stories for more newsletters. The schoolhouse project and the formation of the Foundation might be a good start. Darcy said she could help with that story. We’ll need to send a newsletter out in December in preparation for our January election meeting.

Gary said it would be possible to ask people to suggest future meeting programs using the blog he created.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Submitted,

Jerry Finigan