

Santa Clara Community Organization
Executive Board minutes
September 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. Other Board members present included Terri Reed, Patty Zachary, Jerry Finigan, Scott Sorenson, and Louis Vidmar. Kate reported that funding from the City is still a confused issue. The first allocation was reported to the neighborhoods but it is still unclear what the yearly allocation is and how much of neighborhood work plans will be funded. The City funds only mailings to city addresses. Last year the County funded mailings to county addresses in Santa Clara and River Road and this was done through a commissioner's discretionary fund. This year it was hoped that this item would be part of the County budget, but Kate said she missed the window to make that possible so there will be no County funding this year for mailing.

Terri reported on the third annual Santa Clara Concert in the Park held August 3rd. There were notably more people this year and this might be attributed to the perfect weather and signs that were used to advertise the event. Kate said Santa Clara needs to do more collaboration with the River Road events so each neighborhood better promotes events in both neighborhoods. Jerry said he has reimbursed Terri from the Santa Clara events account and the ENI account. Kate suggested that the events fund should be a common pot that can be drawn from for any Santa Clara events. Jerry deferred and said that events like the Concert raises money to produce the event and needs to know how many funds can be counted on so monies raised for events should probably be earmarked for the events donations are collected for.

Kate reported on upcoming programs. The Lane County Crisis/Stabilization programs are scheduled for the October meeting. Patty reported that residents in Peace Village seems to be skeptical about these programs as it is believed they are too cozy with law enforcement. Kate reported that he was contacted by the Laurel Hill Center. They would like to build 50 housing units behind the former location of the Filling Station at River Road and Hunsaker. These residents would serve people with mental illness. Their plan is to break ground in the fall of 2026. They asked to come to a Santa Clara meeting to present their plan to the community. Kate said she would like to do a tour of one of their existing buildings to get an idea of how they might present themselves as neighbors. She said it might be possible to have them present at the November meeting. Terri suggested that we present another program from Better Eugene Springfield Transportation (BEST) with particular attention to the River Road corridor and its potential connection to Highway 99. She said it might be a good idea to have a SCCO representative work with them. The program might be a joint meeting with RRCO.

Terri moved that the December meeting be a general meeting rather than an Executive Board meeting; and that the January meeting be an Executive Board meeting. Also that there be no SCCO meeting in the month of July. Patty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate reported that a SCCO and RRCO joint team will reconvene to advance to Neighborhood Plan. She said once the City attorney comes back with a contract for Foundation approval, the schoolhouse project can proceed. The City Council will also need to sign off on it. Kate said she would check again to see when the Santa Clara Community Park will officially be open.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Submitted: Jerry Finigan, secretary