

Santa Clara Community Organization  
General Meeting minutes  
January 2, 2025  
Messiah Lutheran Church

Those in attendance – total 17 (8 Board members, 7 residents, 2 others)

\*hybrid attendees

<u>Board members</u>	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Presenters</u>
Jerry Finigan	Gary Wildish	Nain Muñoz
Kate perle	Mary Leontovich*	Glen Porter
Tim Foelker	Peter Thurston	
Dawn Lesley*	Barbara Ray*	
Matt Vohs	Todd Weaver	
Terri Reed	Jim Weidemaier	
Jerry Mohr	Patti Zachery	
Scott Sorenson		

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. She summarized SCCO and its mission and called for self-introductions from the audience. Kate introduced Nain Muñoz, principal of North Eugene High School. Nain briefly described his background and said for him the culture of North Eugene High School is his highest priority. His goal is to give each student more opportunity for involvement. He said that the staff is great and that staff retention is excellent and there are abundant applications for positions at the school. He described how North is unique in its offering of career technology classes and that the school lets kids know of the multiple life paths they might follow beyond college attendance. In the question/answering session Nain said that he would be interested in how the community and school might work together to make North students understand their role in the community. This presentation concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Kate introduced Glen Porter, Director of the River Avenue Navigation Center, working for the contractor, Equitable Social Solutions. Glen discussed the measures the Center have taken to address the concerns about loitering around the Center and behind the Riviera Shopping Center. He said that concerns might be forwarded to Jeremy Sullivan who is the community liaison. He said there are regular community cleanup work parties (the next one scheduled for Friday, January 17) and that the Center has been given an increased budget that will help hire an internal mental health professional. Gary Wildish reported that nearby businesses have begun attending community/navigation center meetings and that the Center is working with the Riviera Shopping Center (with some mixed results). Glen said that the Center has now been operating for two years and that the program there has adapted much and has become more stable. He said the goal is that the program hire quality staff by offering not just a liveable wage, but a driveable wage. This presentation concluded at 8:29 p.m.

Business meeting:

Tim Foelker moved the minutes from the November 7, 2024 General Meeting be approved as submitted, Gary Wildish seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Terri Reed gave a report on the successful food box project – Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Kate said the Board presented a letter to the electeds regarding the Beacon/River Road intersection. So far the only response

has been from Lane County Commissioner, Ceniga. Patti Zachary commented that one of the reasons the problem exists is because too many government agencies share the responsibility for the intersection and they do not communicate sufficiently to understand the problem. Kate reported that the Board has approved a letter in support of a grant to help fund a bike/ped bridge across Beltline to connect the Santa Clara area with the River Road area – a boon for students in Santa Clara trying to access North Eugene High School.

Kate announced Board elections at the February meeting. There are five board seats to be voted on.

Reports: Jerry reported that the next Awbrey Park work party is this coming Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon; and that there are only two other remaining work parties before the season ends. Peter Thurston reported that most of the plots in the Santa Clara Community Garden has been reserved but there are still a couple available. Tim Foelker reported on the Santa Clara Community Foundation. He said that the blue bag bottle drop drive has been a success and the program is helping to slowly drive up finances. Kate reported the Schoolhouse Project is inching along. Insurance is still an issue. The Foundation received a quote but it was for the wrong amount. An architect will begin working on the project in February. The City is extending the paved area to the schoolhouse. Tim suggested that, since the property around the schoolhouse has been defined, we might organize a work party to improve it.

Land Use: Kate reported that there is a January 11 meeting with the developer of a large subdivision on Ava Avenue (just south of Peace Village). There is an application to divide one lot into four at 185 Ferndale, and there is a plan to build a 50-unit facility behind the building formerly housing the Filling Station.

Other business: Tim Foelker reported that Lane County is looking for recruits to the Lane County Parks Advisory Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted,  
Jerry Finigan, secretary