

Santa Clara Community Organization
General Meeting minutes
February 6, 2025
Messiah Lutheran Church

Those in attendance – total 28 (8 Board members, 18 residents, 2 others)

*hybrid attendees

<u>Board members</u>	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Others</u>
Kate Perle	Kevin Reed	Wendy Maurer*
Matt Vohs	Peter Thurston*	Jim Weidemaier
Jerry Mohr	Gary Wildish	Jon Myatt
Jerry Finigan	Bob Cox	Steve Karter*
Louie Vidmar	Mary Leontovich*	Betsy Parry
Terri Reed*	Daneen Foelker*	Rod Graves*
Tim Foelker*	Chel	Susan*
Dawn Lesley	Rosalyn Thompson*	Erlene Christensen
	Janet Ayres	Mitchell Christensen

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. She summarized SCCO and its mission and called for self-introductions from the audience. Kate introduced Barb Bryson of Habitat Haven, and member of the Audubon Society. She began her presentation by reporting that three billion birds have been lost in the last four years and that is mostly due to loss of habitat. Humans can mitigate this effect by creating nurturing habitat for all pollinators. She said this can begin with removal of invasive plants that smother native plants and by replacing lawn with pollinator-attracting ones. Barb discussed the negative effects of light pollution on birds and suggested that when trees need to be removed to leave tall trunks for avian habitat. She said that technicians are available to visit residences to make suggestions to make back yards habitat havens. These yards may be certified at three different levels as habitat haven yards. Barb described creation of canopy layers and ground covers. She discussed how to mitigate bird collisions with windows and encouraged the establishment of raingardens. She showed some pictures of back yards that have been certified and said that Oregonflora.org is a good resource; and she recommended some books. The presentation was followed with a question/answer session. The program concluded at 7:55 p.m.

Business meeting:

Dawn moved the minutes from the January 2 general meeting be approved as submitted. Matt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Dawn announced the dissolution of the Social Justice Committee since the group has not attained the capacity to be effective. She hoped this committee might be replaced with another committee such as a school support committee or a social outreach committee. She said the Bias Response Team will continue to respond when needed.

New Business: Kate opened elections to the Board. Members currently holding seats who would like to continue in their positions included Scott Sorenson, Louie Vidmar, and Kate Perle. Jerry moved that these Board members be reelected. Gary Wildish seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jerry nominated Kevin Reed for one of the two remaining open positions. Dawn seconded. Motion passed unanimously. When asked for other nominations, there were none so one position remains open.

Announcements: Terri updated the group on responses so far from the County regarding the County's discussions regarding possible short term and possible long term mitigation of the intersection of Beacon and River Road. Dawn said she was not convinced statistics were being kept on the safety of the intersection. Gary Wildish responded that the State has been keeping records on incidents there. He said the long term solution of a possible roundabout seemed to him to be the best solution. Louie gave a report on activities of the Neighborhood Leaders Council. This included the neighborhoods' response to the proposed fire services tax. He said that the general consensus was that it is necessary if other essential and popular services is not to be cut. The NLC heard about the proposed roundabouts on Franklin Boulevard, How Senator Merkley is working on housing, that Trainsong Neighborhood is being reactivated, a city-wide neighborhood conference, and how the Eugene Healthcare Coalition is working for a second citywide healthcare forum on March 1. Terri suggested that this years Santa Clara concert be held on August 3 and that it be held at Arrowhead Park this year. She asked if there was any discussion about this. Hearing none, she said she would apply for a permit from the City for August 3. Kate announced the next work party at Wendover Park and reported that the emergency preparedness Ready Northwest is coming back to life – they will be holding quarterly planning meetings and quarterly presentations. They will be making available a film called *Rumblings*, a film about the next Cascadia fault earthquake. Kate suggested that Santa Clara could begin emergency preparations by engaging in radio training on small hand-held radios. Kate reported that the deadline for Transportation Planning feedback closes February 15.

Reports: Friends of Awbrey Park – Jerry reported that a planning group has been formed for planning for the next Awbrey Park Wildflower Festival (14th annual). May 3 has been chosen. March will be have the last regular work party at the park and the April work party will probably be preparation for the festival. Santa Clara Community Foundation – Tim encouraged people to pick up blue bags for the bottle drop program to help fund the Foundation. Tim said the Foundation hopes to establish a fund raising committee. Hileman Landing is still holding work parties and he gave a brief description of this natural area. Kate reported that, as far as the schoolhouse project goes, the City has extended one of their paths to give access to the schoolhouse; the project is still looking for the necessary insurance; and Kate will soon be getting drawings from an architect to outline the renovation of the schoolhouse. Land Use – Kate reported only one land use action: application for annexation for 3335 River Road.

Kate asked people to give suggestions for future programs. The March meeting will not be a general meeting but an Executive Board meeting. Board officers will be elected at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted,
Jerry Finigan, secretary