

Santa Clara Community Organization  
General meeting minutes  
April 6, 2023  
Messiah Lutheran Church & hybrid meeting

Those in attendance – total 29. (9 board members, 13 residents, 7 others)

\*hybrid attendees

<u>Board</u>	<u>Community members</u>	<u>others</u>
Patrick Kerr	Martha Johnson	Jen Connors*
Tim Foelker*	Gary Wildish	Todd Weaver
Louie Vidmar	Erlene Christensen	Mary Leontovich*
Terri Reed	Mitchell Christensen	Chris Peters
Kate Perle	Bob Cox	Joyce Peters
Jerry Finigan	Michelle*	Brian Richardson*
Matt Vohs	Sonja Carlson	Catherine Rohan*
Jerry Mohr*		Ryan Ceniga
Dawn Lesley		

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Kate Perle. She called for self-introductions

EWEB presentation: Kate introduced Rod Price, Asst. general manager of the Eugene Water and Electric. He and Sonja Carlson – Santa Clara resident and EWEB Board member – who presented the general capacity of EWEB from the time it began in 1911 up to the present. They discussed modernization initiatives like smart meters and water leak detection capacity. They also discussed expanded outreach to the community that has been undertaken. They said that utility rates have remained relatively flat over the years but that is no longer sustainable, with inflation, updates to equipment, and the decommission of the Leaburg canal and powerhouse. EWEB is mindful of the community and have set up customer benefit programs, electric car ride-share cars, and drinking water resilience during disasters. There is a program to shut off power in areas involved in wildfires. The presentation concluded at 7:35.

Sheriff's presentation: Kate introduced Lane County Sheriff, Cliff Harrold. The Sheriff explained how the passage of the bond levy in 2013 reestablished adequate service at the Lane County Jail and how the jail is essential for an effective justice system. He explained this by describing the “revolving door” system before the levy that erased criminal accountability. Since 2014 there have been zero early releases, jail bed capacity has increased from 125 beds to meet a promise to establish 255 beds. Currently there are 357 beds and new employees have been hired including five mental health specialists. He said if the public chooses to passed the upcoming levy, it would continue this progress without any more taxes than have already been established. He took a number of questions following the presentation. The presentation concluded at 8:15.

Kate introduced Catherine Rohan of the City of Eugene. She described the Move EUG program and how to use its interactive map showing how to flag transportation issues in local areas. She urged people to vote for the transportation bond levy being proposed.

Martha Johnson gave a presentation from the Social Justice Committee. She said that anti-Semitism incidents have ballooned in the community and such incidents are indicators of less tolerance in the community generally. She Then presented a video narrated by Rabbi Sacks discussing the issue of anti-Semitism throughout the ages and how scapegoating plays a major role.

Election of Board officers: Kate called for nominations for Board officers. There were none. The current officers were asked if they were willing to continue in their current positions, and they agreed. Matt Vohs moved that SCCO continue with its current slate of officers: Kate Perle, Chair; Tim Foelker, vice chair; and Jerry Finigan, secretary/treasurer. Dawn Lesley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate asked for a motion of approval of the minutes for the March 2 SCCO meeting as submitted. Patrick Kerr moved, Terri Reed seconded: motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Finigan asked for a motion to approve a request for funds from the Community Involvement Office for covering the cost of a celebration cake for the Awbrey Park Wildflower Festival. Patrick moved, Dawn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate read a list of eight events, with times and dates that are upcoming that are relevant to the Santa Clara community.

Tim Foelker was asked for an update of Santa Clara Community Foundation issues. Tim reported that the adoption of Hileman Landing Park is now established and two work parties have been undertaken there. Times for work parties is set for the last Saturday of each month. (though this is not true for April as it is the time scheduled for the Awbrey Park Wildflower Festival). He said fundraising continues through BottleDrop.

Kate announced that an area-wide postcard will be sent out to announce the Wildflower Festival and announce a community gathering in May to review the Neighborhood Plan at North Eugene High School.

Patrick gave an update from the Neighborhood Leaders Council. The City Manager report there indicated a financial gap that will be in the City budget and that the City is considering going to a two-year budget instead of an annual one.

Kate said SCCO is not having enough time in monthly meetings to execute Executive Board business and is looking for ideas of how the Executive Board might have more time to do this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Submitted,  
Jerry Finigan  
Sec/treas.