

Santa Clara Community Organization  
Executive Board meeting  
June 3, 2021 (via Zoom)

Those in attendance – total 23 (7 Board members, 16 others)

Board:

Michael Nieman  
Kate Perle  
Jerry Finigan  
Patrick Kerr  
Matt Vohs  
Dawn Lesley  
Louis Vidmar

Presenter: Shane Rhodes

Presenter: Mark Smith

Community members:

Gary Haliski  
Mary Leontovich  
Jerry Mohr  
Joel Robe  
Ann Vaughn  
Darcy Davis  
Matthew Whalen  
Brian Louis  
Tanya Stolt  
Greg Stolt  
Ron Lamie  
Kamau Gatson  
Rachel DeBuse  
Tom Dodd

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

Bloodworks: Mark Smith of Bloodworks gave a short history of the group. He said he has come to appeal for donations, especially as hospital demand has spiked and currently there is less than 24 hours supply at the ready. Part of this has to do with the fact that, as the pandemic wanes, people who have put off elective surgery are now filling beds. He said that the donation bus was discontinued during the last year as it didn't afford the distancing needed. Currently this is being replaced with pop-up sites. In Santa Clara these are held at Irving Grange and Riviera Baptist Church June 14, 15, and 16. In the past sites were set up outside of businesses but with so many people working from home that strategy is less effective. He urged people to make an appointment. He said one incentive to donate is a drawing to give away two electric scooters. Q&A: Patrick asked if Bloodworks was partnering with businesses and Mark said that they were, offering coupons and vouchers. Patrick asked if any local sites would be available on Fathers' Day. Answer: no. Gary said he was especially interested in the Oakshire Brewery voucher. Mark urged him to make an appointment and come in. Dawn reported she donated recently at Riviera Baptist and said the facility made her feel comfortable and it was very easy. Michael asked if blood could be donated from someone who had had cancer. Mark said the guidelines have changed it is now permitted as long as there are no symptoms. Kate asked Gary if this was on our social media and he said it was. Kate said maybe the incentives can be reported there and maybe a local business like The Filling Station can be approached.

Beltline Bike-Ped overpass: Shane Rhodes of the City's Transportation Department shared his screen and showed slides indicating locations along Beltline, west of the Beltline-River Road intersection, that are being contemplated to build a bike-ped overpass over Beltline to connect the greenways for walkers and bikers. The biggest consideration is finding a suitable place for the overpass to connect to both sides of Beltline. It is hoped to find funds for this through Federal funds, ODT funds, and system development charges.

He reported on other projects that are being discussed for Santa Clara. One is the construction of a protected intersection at River Road and Hunsaker—the first one that would be constructed in Eugene. Also in discussion is the creation of roundabouts along Division Avenue as part of the Vision Zero project, and the extension of the West Bank Trail to connect the path all the way to Madison and Wilkes – this is probably several years out. Shane said we might also be interested in project being worked on in the River Road area: a better bike-ped access along Howard avenue.

Q&A: Kate asked Shane to explain "Vision Zero". He replied that it is a program with a goal of achieving zero deaths or serious injury on the streets. Mary asked him to explain how a "protected intersection" works. Shane said the intersection is designed to provide better visibility and to force traffic to slow down more before making a turn by reducing the turn radius. Michael asked if there is a central resource showing bike routes and infrastructure. Shane said there is a website that shows pretty complete information and the City also has other sources. Bike routes can be found in bike shops and the Library. Michael asked what is being done about the Beaver/Division intersection. Shane said there are plans to improve that but it is County project. Kamau asked if Shane's slides could be accessed after the meeting. Shane said he would send them to Kate to be supplied on request. Patrick asked if the traffic light at Green Lane would have handicap/bike access ramps and Shane said it would and that Eugene is in the forefront nationally in establishing access ramps. With the construction of the protected intersection all traffic signals will be changed. Joel asked if detours would be involved during this construction and Shane said there is not usually a full closure involved in this kind of arterial. Matt said using an alignment more to the east would make the overpass much more useful for both neighborhoods. Shane said he agrees, though it would probably make it significantly more expensive. Ann said the overpass should not be to the east of River Road as it would force school children to cross River Road twice to get to school. Shane said this is not anticipated. All alignments considered are to the west of River Road. Mary said she found a number of mistakes on the bicycle maps in Santa Clara. Shane said he is very interested to know what they are and asked Mary to send details. Kate asked how bicycle accident statistics in Santa Clara compare to other parts of town. Shane said he really doesn't have that available but the fact that Santa Clara has been targeted by the Vision Zero project probably means that it is higher. Kate asked Shane to get some bike/ped maps to her so SCCO can make them available.

Michael moved the May minutes be approved as submitted; Patrick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Santa Clara Community Foundation: There were four candidates submitting applications to be on the new SCCF. These included Tom Dodd, Darcy Davis, Matthew Whalen, and Jerry Mohr. These candidates were approved by Board consensus. Kate said we should still have one more member and said Tim Foelker would serve if needed. It was agreed Tim would be the fifth member of the Board.

Kate reported that she, Jerry F., and Tim met with Carolyn Burke, head of Parks and Open Spaces, and several other members of that department to begin discussions about acquiring the historic schoolhouse on River Loop #2.

Kate said there is an open position on the Executive Board and she would like to place Jerry Mohr on the Board, with the Boards approval. This was approved by Board consensus. Bylaws require that this be open to other candidates at the next general meeting.

There was a discussion about Michael's formation of a land use committee. Currently Kate is reporting on land use applications. Michael said he feels too busy to follow up currently on this and this discussion might be postponed until later. Mary suggested that the Neighborhood Plan has a number of land use actions that might need monitoring in the future.

## NEW BUSINESS

Jerry suggested that, with the abridged Awbrey Park Wildflower Walk, we might have a fuller community event this summer – possibly in August. This might be a community picnic. He said he is aware of a woodwinds group would like to perform in Awbrey Park. It was agreed that Jerry F, Gary, and Joel would try to get this organized. Kate said with the longer summer days, this might be possible on a weekday evening.

Jerry said it might be time to go back to meeting in person with the relaxed Covid guidelines. There was a discussion dealing with issues such as what the guidelines are currently, how we might monitor unvaccinated attendees, and whether Messiah Lutheran is available and what their and City meeting guidelines are. Kate said she would check with the City and Messiah Lutheran as to this being possible for our August meeting.

## REPORTS:

Social Justice Committee: Gary said that each month the SJC will give a presentation. He presented a trailer of the movie Hidden Figures and went over the purpose and processes of the Bias Response Team. He explained how others can be on these team and reference hate and bias websites. Jerry asked if the Committee will keep a log of responses during a year so we can know what the issues are during a normal year. Dawn said that is something that should be done. Louis asked how the interface with the Human Rights Department operates as victims are given support.

Santa Clara Community Garden: Peter Thurston could not attend this meeting. Jerry reported that he is still working on the contract between SCCCG and St. Matthews. Peter is still trying to figure out how to meet the liability insurance requirement. Jerry told him the Santa Clara Community Foundation will be forming over the next six months and will not be available to help supply this. He suggested to Peter to contact an insurance agent and obtain a policy using Garden funds.

Land Use: Kate reported three applications

- A subdivision of 1 lot into 3 lots on Wilkes
- A zone verification for 60 Division Avenue
- An annexation request for 3514 River Road

Neighborhood Plan: The Plan has been submitted to the County Commission and the City Council and has been given the permission to move into the action phase. During the summer more community outreach will be facilitated.

Dawn reported there has been no activity on the “Bat Phone” over the last month.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Dawn reported that the Lane County Budget Committee recommended that the County fund community organization newsletters to County residents for the coming year and this was approved by the County Commission.
- Kate reported that the Board approved by e-mail a letter to Ron Wyden asking for federal funds to move the development of the Santa Clara Community Park forward.
- Patrick thanked all those who convinced the County Commission to provide funds for providing newsletters to County residents – especially Dawn who is part of the County budget Committee

Kate reminded everyone to submit their volunteer hours to Jerry F. and to submit any program ideas for future meetings to her.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Submitted,  
Jerry Finigan