

Santa Clara Community Organization
General Meeting minutes
August 5, 2021. (via Zoom)

Those in attendance – total 16 (6 Board members and 10 others)

Board:

Michael Nieman
Kate Perle
Jerry Finigan
Patrick Kerr
Tim Foelker
Jerry Mohr

Community members:

Gary Haliski
Gerry Brown
Laura Shang
Kamau Gatson
Ben Christensen
Xia Wang
Judie Gatson
Darcy Davis
Paul Shang
Peter Thurston

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

The Old Business item of approval of the Santa Clara Community Garden/St. Matthews Episcopal Church contract was discussed first. Peter explained the contract simply put into language the practice that has already been in place for the last nine years. Jerry Finigan moved, Michael seconded that the contract be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Kamau reported on the Social Justice Committee. There are currently 13 members on the committee and he asked Xia to describe the hate/vandalism incident she experienced at the end of July. Xia described the incident which involved an oil-based paint-ball attack on her house. She said the perpetrator had been identified and arrested and subsequently released. Kamau said that in order to make sure the Sheriff's office regard these incidents with greater seriousness that pressure be exerted on them by making sure they understand how this community regards this as an attack on the community. Michael asked what might be done to make Xia and others feel safer. Xia agreed that public pressure on law enforcement would help. Kate referenced resources like Victim Services and Restorative Justice. Michael asked Xia if she had an attorney and she responded that, since this is a criminal matter, the DA is her attorney. Kate said she asked the City resource – Lorna Flormoe – what has been done by other communities and she said one tact was to leaflet the neighborhood. Ben said that law enforcement follows the easiest path and that interrupting their normal responses would make them more responsive. Judie thanked the Committee for its support and said that, even though the Facebook posts spread information about it, that is a very limited audience. Michael said he thought he was part of the Committee, but wasn't informed about this incident. Tim said he would be sure that all Committee members are copied. Xia said she was appreciative of the Santa Clara response and it made her discard her impulse to move away and said what we have is a good foundation but there needs to be more and better outreach. Gary complimented Xia and Ben in their reaction to this incident and their proactive response to it. It underlines the importance of community support. Ben said yard signs that imply support for minorities can be indicative of safe places to people feeling threatened. Xia and Ben said they realized when the event first occurred they really didn't know what support was needed. One suggestion is that a

community support group might have a number of things ready to offer that might be helpful. Laura said the idea of a letter to the City and Sheriff's office letting them know this is important to us should be issued. Xia said she was told by the County that there are really no resources to help with hate crimes.

Gary moved the minutes from the July meeting be approved as submitted, Tim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick moved that the open seat on the SCCO Board be filled by Jerry Mohr. Shang seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Concert in the Park: The Clarinet Concert is scheduled for August 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. It was discussed about what SCCO might do in terms of outreach during this event. The Neighborhood plan would like to offer an informational handout. It was decided to place information on the flip side of this handout about SCCO. Jerry F., Kate, and Michael will work on this. Becky Taylor might offer informational handouts concerning the Beaver-Hunsaker project. Kate said she has a large sandwich board available to be used to promote the event – Gary suggested that it be placed at Les Schwab and said he would help arrange that.

Announcements:

Kate announced the program next month will be Dan Bryant with an update on the Peace Village project. She encouraged to people submit proposals for future programs.

Reports:

- SC Community Foundation – Tim updated the group on the progress of the Foundation with a description of the Board and the legal processes. He asked Kate to describe the progress of the lease agreement with the City in regard to the historic schoolhouse. Kate said she is currently working with Gary Wildish and others on a phasing plan for restoring the building as that would inform how much would be needed financially. She said she has secured a key from Mark Cosmos for the building so that a tour of the structure by the Foundation Board members might be facilitated. Tim said a website for the Foundation is now available. Michael said that as he talked to community members about this project, the fact that this is a preservation of an historical heritage especially resonates.

- Land Use – Kate said the only land use item currently in progress is an annexation request for 3915 Scenic Drive.

- Kate said that since Jerry F. has withdrawn from the Neighborhood Leaders Council, someone else would need to step up to represent SCCO. Tim volunteered to step in.

- Gary reminded the group that the Social Justice Committee has an excellent start but that more people would be needed in the event that members might be absent during an event. He said that the Committee will be giving a short presentation each month in order to educate the Board.

Jerry F. moved the meeting be adjourned; Tim seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted:

Jerry Finigan