

Santa Clara Community Organization
General Membership meeting minutes
August 7, 2025
Messiah Lutheran Church

Those in attendance – 31 (8 Board members, 20 residents, 3 guests)

<u>Board members</u>		<u>residents</u>		<u>guests</u>	*hybrid attendees
Jerry Mohr	Derek Alexander	Don Scott	Gary Wildish	Danny Hancock	
Patti Zachary	Kathy Alexander	Joel Robe*	Tom Dodd	Marina Wensch	
Matt Vohs	Chris Fuller	Cindy Graves	Barbara Ray*	Raevyn Thompson	
Kate Perle	John Crowder	Rod Graves	Bob Cox		
Kevin Reed	Susan Spiedell*	Marion Schimitz	Suzan Fyle		
Jerry Finigan	Graham Martin	Carole Schimtz	Gay Kramer-Dodd		
Louie Vidmar	Dawn Lesley	Todd Weaver			
Terri Reed					

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the president, Kate Perle. Kate gave some remarks dealing with the mission of the Santa Clara Community Organization and called for self-introductions from the audience. Kate introduced Marina Wensch, project manager of the Santa Clara Community Park. Marina apologized for the delayed opening of the park. She said that this was due to delays because the adjustments of the play structures that needed to be corrected. She said that landscaping is trying to keep up with a constant problem of people breaking through the construction barriers at the playground; but it is hoped that the park will be open next week. As funding is still being sought, there is no timeline for phase 2 improvements. The City has expended the bond that was originally allocated and will be seeking another bond. Phase 2 includes a swimming pool and main building. Trees in the existing improvements will be planted in the winter, during their dormant period. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The program concluded at 7:25 p.m.

Kate introduced Raevyn Thompson of Beyond Toxics. Raevyn gave an overview of the mission of this nonprofit that was founded in 2001 as well as how the organization works and how its strategic plan is developed. The group focuses on environmental justice, climate justice, and air and water quality. Some of the projects Beyond Toxics have worked on includes the mitigation of the JH Baxter site, the West Eugene Energy Project, focus on exposure to toxins in personal care products, training for youth leadership, and legislative work. Some of the successes in this legislative work was the “right to repair” bill in 2024, the Healthy Homes Program in 2024, Natural Climate Solutions in 2023, and the Oregon Medical Waste Incineration Act in 2023. Bills passed in 2025 includes Toxic Free Schools and landfill methane emissions monitoring. Bills that have not yet passed included one protecting pollinators and wildlife, PFAs phase-out and Planning for Healthy Communities. The current policy agenda seeks more stringent public health development, community gardens education project and offering a variety of different workshops in collaboration with the City of Eugene. This presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The program concluded at 7:45 p.m.

Business meeting:

Kate asked for a motion to pass the May 1 2025 minutes. Terri Reed pointed out that they erroneously described the August 3rd Concert in the Park as occurring on Saturday when it should say Sunday. Terri moved that these minutes be passed with that correction. Jerry Mohr seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate asked for a motion to pass the July 3, 2025 minutes. Patti Zachary moved they be approved as submitted. Jerry Mohr seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Terri gave a report on the August 3rd Santa Clara Concert in the Park: beautiful weather and crowd that was larger than previous years.

Kate gave a report on land use applications. There were just two – a land partition by Margaret Thummel on Green Lane, and an application to build a 3-building memory care unit on Ross Lane.

Kate asked for suggestions for upcoming programs and announced a trash pick-up event around the Navigation Center on August 22. For those who didn't know about the Navigation Center, Gary Wildish described the program, its mission, and its governing board, of which he is a member. Dawn announced that SCCO supported the recent renewal of the Navigation Center contract.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Submitted,
Jerry Finigan, secretary