

Santa Clara Community Organization
Executive Board meeting
September 3, 2020 (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by the chair, Kate Perle. Others attending included Board members, Jerry Finigan, Matt Vohs, Ann Vaughn, George Price, Tim Foelker, and Louis Vidmar. Also in attendance were Gary Haliski, Cat Tanzer, Lillian Shoup, and Mary Leontovich. Kate called for self introductions. Ann moved the minutes from the July and August meetings be approved as submitted, Tim seconded. Motion passed.

Adoption of the historic schoolhouse at 990 River Loop #2: The proposed project was summarized by Kate. Lillian asked about how it would be used to serve the community. Kate's response was that it would be used as a meeting space until a community center is built in the community park and it can be used as a rental space for events, classes, etc. Lillian asked if we envisioned its use to be similar to how the River Road Annex is being used. Ann responded that the comparison is an excellent one. Lillian said she would be willing to talk with Cathy Catelina at River Road Parks to get a better understanding of how that park schedules and uses that facility.

Establishment of a non-profit corporation: Matt asked about the status of establishing a 501(c)3 corporation, which would be necessary to make the schoolhouse project possible. Kate agreed it would be necessary to do this and to be used to raise funds and materials for other projects. Mary asked how the relationship of a non-profit corporation would be to SCCO. Jerry suggested it could take the form of another non-profit he is familiar with: the Airport Rotary Foundation. The Board of this foundation is drawn from the membership of the Rotary Club of Eugene Airport and the membership of the Foundation is that Rotary club. There was a discussion of the conversation that Kate and Jerry had with David Atkins, the attorney that would set up this non-profit. There was a discussion about the challenges that might lie ahead in the repurposing of the schoolhouse like how much work would be involved, if we might have to deal with issues like lead components and asbestos. Tim asked what might happen if the project fails and also suggested that, since the infrastructure needs to be established on park land, the City should provide all underground infrastructure. Jerry suggested that still sewer and water user charges would be our responsibility. Kate said votes are needed by the Executive Board before signing any agreement with the City as well as approval by the general membership. Jerry moved the Executive Board approve the adoption of the historic schoolhouse on River Loop #2, Tim seconded. Motion passed. Matt said that the contract language will also need approval when it is ready. Tim asked if the new non-profit would be limited to just Santa Clarians. Kate responded that the discussion hasn't gotten that far yet. Tim suggested that it would be useful to invite others onto the new foundation board as they could bring in some useful skills. Tim moved the Executive Board approve moving ahead with a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Jerry seconded. Motion passed.

Clarifying Executive Board and General membership votes: There was a discussion about getting clarity as to when the general membership votes and when just the Executive Board would be voting. It was pointed out that it is often hard to get the quorum requirement of 10 in addition to the Executive Board for a general membership vote – especially during the pandemic. Tim said it is important that all attending our meetings feel free and encouraged to share in the discussions. Gary observed it might be hard to be sure that those voting are eligible, but he believes it is possible to get the numbers. Cat said it would be possible to attach information links when the *Santa Clarion* are sent out. Tim said it should be clear in the agenda about which votes would be Executive Board votes and which would be general membership votes. Gary said that it might not be necessary to designate meetings as Executive Board only. Ann said it is important to be clear about these votes. Kate described how the River Road Board does it, separating meetings entirely. Ann said she really likes having Board meetings open to the public. Gary said discussions should be open to everyone present, even if the vote is a Board vote. Lillian asked why the word “Executive” needs to be included as it seems a little officious – why not just “Board” vote? Jerry pointed out that *the Santa Clarion* informs about topics that will be discussed – it doesn’t really publish the agenda. Tim suggested that the *Clarion* could encourage people to go to the website for more information.

Updates:

- Status of the Urban Reserves discussion: Kate said that there is some agreement that class 1 and class 2 soils will be protected during any expansion. Currently the City has agreed on a 27-year option and the County has agreed on a 30-year option. There will need to be a meeting of the minds between the two.
- Kate reported that the updated charter for the Neighborhood Plan has been drafted. We will need to take an e-mail vote on it in the near future.
- There will need to be a general membership vote at the October meeting on the schoolhouse project and on the formation of a nonprofit. Kate said she will work on the language for this.

meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

submitted,

Jerry Finigan, secretary