

Santa Clara Community Organization
General Membership Meeting
October 1, 2020 (via Zoom)

Present:

Board members	Others
Tim Foelker	Gary Haliski
Dawn Leslie	Mary Leontovich
Kate Perle	Jerry Mohr
Jerry Finigan	Cathy Martini
George Price	Karen Darling
Ann Vaughn	Michael Nieman
Louie Vidmar	Suzanne Nieman
Mat Vohs	Waymon Banks

Guest speaker: Nancy Nathanson

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Kate Perle at 7:02 p.m. There were 17 in attendance including 8 Board members. Kate called for introductions. She introduced Nancy Nathanson.

Presentation: Nancy began by explaining what neighborhoods in Eugene she represents as she serves as a representative in the Oregon State legislature. She began by reporting on the Oregon wildfires. She said that there are nine reported fatalities and nine people still missing. There are 2395 that are in emergency shelters, 3124 residences destroyed and 6221 who have applied to FEMA for emergency assistance. Currently there are still six major active fires and that a million acres burned – twice the normal annual average. She said that the Holiday Farm fire is marked by a perimeter of 260 miles. Communications upriver is still a challenge.

Covid 19: Nancy reported that there are a lot of new cases incident on return of students to University campuses, but there are other causes such as the meeting of a prayer group, a sewing circle, and a labor day party. In each case masks were not used. She said that the Universities are testing intensively and that a new saliva covid test shows some great promise. She said of the 534 care centers most have done baseline testing. There are a few care centers that were totally evacuated because of the wildfires. Nancy said one real challenge is the time it takes to get results of the tests and that if it takes a long time to get results, these tests are useless. She said the federal government is generally missing in action and that states are now relying on themselves. She said she is working with a friend who is a retired Air Force officer to build up a stockpile of PPE by establishing local production.

Q & A: Mary asked if Nancy had any information about how many might lose their homes because they lost their jobs. Nancy said the numbers are not clear now but that it is encouraging that Oregon's unemployment rate right now is actually improving. She said there is a huge need for food security that is obvious. Dawn asked if there was any concern about election integrity. Nancy said there is not a lot of information shared about this – possibly because of security concerns. So far there have been no reports of attacks on voting in Oregon. Tim asked about how we might get information on this and Nancy said this is the purview of the executive branch. Kate asked about the State's economic forecast. Nancy said that at this time there is actually an unexpected two billion dollar surplus but that this is assuming there will be another injection of monies

from the federal government. Also the forecast is making some assumptions about the health forecast. The sooner we get a handle on the pandemic, the better the economy will be. Louis asked if the unemployment numbers takes into account those who have lost jobs and have not filed for unemployment. Nancy said the unemployment figures come only from unemployment applications. Mary asked if Nancy might add to her report – is there any subject that has been omitted? Nancy said she is concerned what might happen with people’s well-being once the winter has drive people indoors. She said she is impressed with how individuals and community groups have voluntarily stepped up to help in this crisis.

The presentation finished at 7:45 p.m.

Kate asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3rd meeting. Tim moved, Dawn seconded. Motion passed.

Motion: Tim moved, Jerry seconded that the Santa Clara Community Organization enter into an agreement with the City of Eugene to secure ownership of the historic school building on River Loop #2 to be repurposed as a community meeting space. Ann said that the words “enter into an agreement” might not be the best wording. Tim suggested the words “pursue an agreement . . .” This was accepted as a friendly amendment. Dawn pointed out that there was not the 10 community members outside of the Board necessary to form a quorum for a general meeting. It was agreed this would be brought forward in November at a general meeting for approval. There was a discussion about how more people might be attracted to a general meeting. A couple ideas – promote the meeting on our social media platforms and website. Cathy suggested that there might be an informational sign physically posted at the schoolhouse to inform passersby.

Forming a nonprofit: There was a discussion about the advantages of forming a 501(c)3 nonprofit structure to support the multiple community projects SCCO has planned in the future. Again it was suggested we try to present this to a general membership meeting in November. Gary suggested that this and the schoolhouse vote be taken at the front of such a meeting before we might lose a quorum. Jerry said there were a number of regular attendees that did not attend this meeting and we might contact them in advance to let them know how important it is for them to attend in November. Ann suggested an on-line outreach and discussion to give people information before this meeting.

Updates/reports

- Tim reported on the Santa Clara Community Garden. He said there is a meeting planned for October 2nd to discuss what to do about an invasive worm. He said some of the timber salvaged from trees removed near Kingsbury would be used to establish an entryway to the garden.
- Kate reported on a number of land use applications in the area: Dan Porter partition at the corner of Santa Clara Ave. & Lenore – one lot into two. 3rd addition to Rivendell; lot line adjustment on River Loop #1, annexation of SC. Community Park property; and annexation by Peace Presbyterian Church.
- Kate said she submitted a proposed revised charter for the Neighborhood Plan to the Board and has obtained the 5-member majority for approval. She said that the proposed edits to the parks and natural resources portion of the Neighborhood Plan will need to be reviewed by the Board. She said Santa Clara will need to re-establish a Santa Clara

alternate to the CAC and asked everyone to put this out to the community for volunteers. It was decided to send out a general social media blast regarding this.

- Kate said the Board has reviewed all of the topics in the Neighborhood Plan except for the land use portion. This portion is now ready for review. It was decided that she would try to establish a future Thursday to bring the extended board together one more time to review and discuss this portion of the Plan.
- Kate reported on the status of the Urban Reserve process. She said the Eugene Planning Commission opted for a 27-year option and the Lane County Planning Commission chose the 30-year option. This issue is how class 1 and 2 soils will be protected from development. Kate said it is important we let our electeds know that agricultural land preservation is a community priority.
- Dawn said there needs to be a standing agenda item asking for a report about the “bat phone” She said the only standing issue reported to the phone is the nuisance property on Scottsdale. She suggested that SCCO send a letter to the execs and electeds of both the City and County apprising them of our frustration of trying to get any help with this from the respectful governments. Dawn volunteered to draft a letter for our group to review for approval.
- Dawn said that at any general meeting we also need to include community approval of the diversity statement approved by the Board. She suggested it be posted on the website and in the Santa Clarion. She suggested an advance notice of the November general meeting ten days in advance of the meeting so people can put in on their calendars.
- Gary reminded that the City has given us the go-ahead to resume our work parties at Awbrey Park. This will begin this coming Saturday (October 3). Sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon. There was a discussion about sporadic car-camping at the Park and of one particular apparently permanent camp that needs to be addressed by the EPD.

meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

submitted,
Jerry Finigan