

Santa Clara Community Organization  
 General Meeting Minutes  
 November 7, 2024  
 Messiah Lutheran Church

Those in attendance – total 28 (8 Board members, 18 residents, 2 others)

<u>Board members</u>		<u>Residents</u>	<u>Others</u>
Kate Perle		Matt Irvin	Jon Myatt
Louie Vidmar		Ken Carpenter	Bob Cox
Dawn Leslie		Ann Carpenter	Jim Weidemaier
Tim Foelker		Chris Fuller	Arie Weidemaier
Jerry Finigan		Betsy Parry	Natalie Crowder
Terri Reed		Janet Ayres	John Crowder
Scott Sorenson		David Duncan	Charlotte Hennessey
Matt Vohs		Dani Crowley	Cathy Kubare
		Patty Driscoll	

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. She gave some introductory remarks and called for self-introductions from the audience. Kate introduced Dawn Lesley who outlined how the presentation would proceed and reminded the audience of SCCO’s group agreements. Dawn then introduced the speaker, Kate Budd, Division Manager of Lane County Human Services. Kate described some of her history to explain how she got involved with the issue of homelessness. Using a power point she presented a chart showing elements of the division she is supervising and summarized her networking with extra-governmental entities. She described All In – the program Lane County established with state provided funds. Kate said the last point-in-time headcount shows there are 3000 individuals experiencing homelessness in Lane County at any given time. She showed slides summarizing the demographics of these numbers: 60% have disabling conditions, 6% are veterans, 26% are over the age of 65, and more and more families are falling into homelessness. The most important reason for homelessness is the cost of housing which averages between \$1300 and \$1600 per month. Kate promoted a presentation on November 21<sup>st</sup>: “Better Housing Together” featuring the nationally recognized author of *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*, Dr. Coburn. Kate said that, contrary to some allegations, 82% of the homeless are from Lane County; about 60% in Eugene; though rates in rural areas are currently rising. All In is the County’s response to the governor’s executive order to address homelessness. To obtain State funds, each county needed to submit a plan dealing with homelessness. This centers on 7 counties dubbed Continuum of Care counties. The first phase of this funding was 16 million dollars which found applications from 44 agencies, and 30 were funded. Monies were used to address rental assistance, create 94 shelter beds, and create 200 shelters as well as providing rehousing support. Lane County achieved all of the goal outcomes and applied for a second round of funding. In Round 2, the County hopes to sustain the elements of the original programs as well as provide vouchers for housing and developing a landlord cooperation program so landlords might recoup costs for keeping people in their residences. It is also hoped that better employment connections can be realized. There have already been some successes in integrating the homeless into the workforce, especially in the field of truck driving and healthcare. Still there are so many needs still to be addressed. The federal government gave

states permission to give rent assistance starting November 1. There is work being done to keep people committing low level crimes out of jail by giving them the option of working with a peer to find a role in society. Kate said the housing sector are working as fast as they can to provide affordable solutions; and the Lane County Stabilization Center has been a successful transition program. Peace Health is building a care center right next to this center, which will provide a much-needed service. This presentation was followed by a question/answer session and the program concluded at 8:15 p.m.

Business meeting: Kate called for additions/corrections of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> general meeting. There were none. Louis Vidmar moved the minutes be approved as submitted, Dawn Lesley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Announcements:

- Terri Reed described the Neighbors Helping Neighbors event where food boxes will be created for children with food insecurity at Awbrey Park Elementary for the holidays. These boxes will be created at the Irving Grange from 10 a.m. to noon December 14. There was discussion and suggestion as to logistics going forward.
- Dani Crowley invited people to Neurodiversity Family Support Night each 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. The next one features Dr. Gretchen Scheidel.
- Jerry Finigan passed on a heads-up warning from Rod Graves of the Santa Clara Water Board of the raising of EWEB water rates over the next 3 years to fund the construction of infrastructure to diversify EWEB's water sources beyond the McKenzie 'River.
- Kate Perle announced the Fill The Pantry event Sunday, November 10 at the Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Terri Reed said there have been a number of accidents at the intersection of Beacon and River Road. She was concerned since so many different entities responded to these; she has asked service districts to share their response information with each other so they are made aware of this problem.

#### Updates:

- Jerry Finigan described the Awbrey Park work party Saturday, November 2 and invited anyone interested in helping Friends of Awbrey Park to join the first Saturday of each month.
- Tim Foelker encouraged people to help the Santa Clara Community Foundation by donating bottles – especially during the upcoming month when Bottle Drop gives a 20% bonus for returned bottles/cans. He said the Bottle Drop is featuring a photo contest for the blue bag program. He said on behalf of the Foundation he has applied for a large grant for Hileman Landing.
- Land Use. Kate Perle said the only application that is current is a request for the annexation of Wilkes Drive and Part of River Loop #2

Kate announced the program for January features North Eugene High School principal, Nain Muñoz to discuss accomplishments at the high school. There will not be a general meeting in December as that is reserved for an Executive Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted: Jerry Finigan, secretary