

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

There were 17 present, including 9 Board members. Board members included Tim Foelker, Jerry Finigan, Patrick Kerr, Dawn Lesley, Kate Perle, George Price, Louie Vidmar, and Matt Vohs. Others present included Gary Haliski, Mary Leontovich, Peter Thurston, Mark Brown, James Neu, Cat Tanzer, Pat Walsh, Dan Isaacson, and guest, Ben Zublin.

Chair Kate Perle called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and called for introductions. She introduced Ben Zublin from the City of Eugene's waste prevention program. He showed a slide presentation overviewing the scope and mission of his department. He said many more details are available on the website and encouraged the group to tour it. www.eugenerecycles.org and discussed recent initiatives his department is undertaking. He said he can be contact at bzublin@eugene.gov

Questions:

Cat Tanzer asked how rats might be avoided by the accumulation of food waste. Ben gave a number of mitigating actions like making sure the lid of the collection bin is kept closed, not to put the bin out for collection until collection time is near, mix the food waste well with the other yard debris within the bin, trying to make sure it is collected regularly and trying to keep the bin in a cool place. Also odors can be mitigated with baking soda. Ben gave an abridge list of organizations with this same mission and a list of organizations dedicated to reuse. Jim Neu said that the County, as part of their climate action plan, will be offering a presentation on Tuesday about the Lane County landfill – and the landfill is a huge producer of greenhouse gasses. George asked if the compost developed from recycled food waste is available for community gardens. Ben said the compost is commercially marketed but that some commercial distributors offer special prices for community volunteers. He asked George to contact him and he will research what programs might be available. Kate asked if methane digestion is being used at landfills and Ben said this is beyond his expertise. Dawn reported that the county is currently generating electricity from methane produced by the landfill. Kate asked why broken glass is not collected and if anyone is doing something in regard to recycling plastic. Ben said that collection of broken glass is mostly a safety issue and to check with the landfill in regard to their policies. He said there is some work being done at the state level to try to solve the plastics problem. Mary asked if anyone had use of a lot of Nancy Yogurt containers as she has been collecting them for come time. It was suggested to keep track of community projects which is sometimes looking for containers. Jim Neu said the City of Eugene Sustainability Commission is looking into the single-use plastic container issue. Kate said Ben's department title is "waste prevention and green building" and if Ben could offer information about what the City is doing with green building. Ben said that part of the department is not part of his charge but that contacting his teammates might be useful – he suggested that Devin Musgrave might direct us to someone that could give information on green building. Jim suggested googling the City of Eugene Green Building Program. The presentation portion of the meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.

Belonging Training: Gary Haliski, Tim Foelker, and George Price attended this City sponsored webinar. Gary reported this was especially designed to train City employees in inclusion, equity and diversity acceptance with a special focus on local issues and history. He said that it was stressed that equal opportunities do not necessary lead to equal results. There was an overview on the role race played in Oregon history and an attempt to get Caucasian people to look at issues through the eyes of other races and

cultures. Tim said this was a good summary and the training was very thorough. George said he would also like to add that there was information on how historically existing covenants, and language in deeds and purchase contracts denied equity to selected groups. Gary said there is a current attempt to get this kind of language out of documents. Patrick asked if Gary felt this was just another “check the box” exercise to give the optics of diversity. Gary said it didn’t feel that way and that there is an obvious effort to actively seek diversity on City committees and commissions. George said he felt the training was a little patronizing as it seemed a little “preachy” and that he felt it concentrated on some unrepresentative populations while ignoring many underserved ones. He said that the issue of “white guilt” was presented in a pretty heavy manner. Kate said there are more Belonging trainings scheduled in the new year. Mary asked if this was worth the time and Gary responded that he felt it was though it seemed a little long. George said that he was a little “put off” by it.

Minutes: Jerry said Dawn pointed out that the minutes from November 5 should have included that there was a report on the “bat-phone” even though the report showed no activity on it over the past month. Dawn moved that the minutes be approved with this correction, Patrick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s report: Jerry reported that the SCCO bank account shows a total of \$1976.67. The total from the community garden is \$1436.43, leaving a total in the SCCO general fund of \$540.24.

Updates: Kate reported that the next zoom meeting on the Santa Clara Community Park design is set for Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. She said the developer-community meeting for the development on Ava street had to be rescheduled but that the date has not yet been announced. The next meeting of the CAC is set for Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 6 p.m. She said that the annual report to the City is coming up and to make sure everyone get volunteer hours to Jerry. She said she is still looking for an alternative to the CAC for Santa Clara and that maybe we could put out this on our website. George asked about the request Louisa made to the Community work group of the CAC. Kate said that this is an attempt to identify priorities in the action items of the Plan and she felt that Louisa just wanted her group to help with this. Kate said there was an announcement of the availability of small business grants during the pandemic. Dawn asked if Huerto was aware of this, or other groups that do not have access to good information. Pat Walsh suggested that a general blast on the website might be a good idea and that with his position at LTD he has some good links that he will forward to Kate.

Dawn said there was again no activity on the “bat-phone” and maybe after the first the year we might discontinue it. Kate reported on the outreach to Peace Presbyterian Church to network with them in door-knocking of their neighbors to let them know in advance the intent to establish temporary low-income microsites. This connection is still not complete. Also there will need to be community information when Square One Village established more permanent low-income housing in the future. There will need to be good interface established before this happens. Pat W. said he is confident that this will be a successful project as he has confidence in Dan and Square One though it would be good to monitor how the governance will work. He said Sarai Johnson at the County would be a good source of information. Pat said he would be happy to be involved. George said this needs to be handled with care as there might be another community blow-up if this is not handled right. Kate said it would be another year of fundraising before the tiny-home village that is being planned is begun. This village will be on River Road east of the Church while the temporary housing will be behind the Church.

Awbrey Park: Gary said the work session has been given permission to proceed with its first Saturday 9 to noon work party but people will need to bring their own tarps and tools.

Community Garden: George reported that one new plot has been rented to a resident new to Santa Clara. There are huge composting efforts ongoing. Tim said that he can give a protocol of determining worm populations.

Land Use: Kate reported the only activity was the partition of the Peace Presbyterian site.

Other issues: Kate said the City needs neighborhoods to remove recordings from its Zoom accounts as they are running out of space. It was decided to delete previous recordings over two months old but keep important presentations and make them available on You Tube, accessed through the website. Louie volunteered to get this done.

George asked if anything new has happened regarding the LTD transfer site. Pat said that there is no anticipated impact on River Road traffic impending. The issue of listing the remaining land as surplus is not on the LTD Board agenda for December and he doesn't anticipate it being on a January agenda. He'll keep us informed. George asked if Kevin's concern from the last meeting of the bike lane being obstructed by signage is still a problem. Pat said he believes this has been addressed. Patrick said it is important that construction workers are diligent about cleaning up after their daily work – including policing signage. Dawn asked if now is the time to start conversation with the City about this. Kate said the conversation has been ongoing and she has brought it up with Alissa Hanson – she will follow up. Kate said City Planning and City Parks still seem to be on board with this. In this interim, we should work to put the pieces in place. Pat offered the suggestion that to make this palatable to the LTD board there are probably three things to keep in mind: • LTD will not sell the parcel piecemeal – they will want to sell it as a whole. • LTD is concerned that the City tends not to take good care of their undeveloped sites and they might be concerned about how this parcel might be a good neighbor. • LTD is constantly concerned with security issues and would not want a neighbor that jeopardizes the security of the transfer site. George asked if there was a ballpark guess of how much this parcel might sell for. Pat said LTD got a good deal on the entire site and expects this parcel would sell for between one and two million though, of course there will need to be an appraisal of it after it is declared surplus.

George referenced the request by City parks to have a volunteer take care of the dog litter bags at the Community Park and wondered if this is unique – do they rely on volunteers at their other dog-friendly park sites?

Kate reported that the creation of the nonprofit foundation for Santa Clara has begun with the lawyers. She'll keep us informed.

Jerry said the January meeting needs to be a general meeting as elections to the Board will occur. He asked if there will be a program to attract a quorum to the meeting. Kate said at this point maybe just an overview of what has occurred during 2020 might be the program. There may be other ideas that come up during December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Submitted, Jerry Finigan