Santa Clara Community Organization
General Membership meeting minutes
December 4, 2025

Those in attendance – 17 (8 Board members, 8 residents, 1 guest)

*hybrid attendee

Board members		Residents		Guest
Jerry Finigan	Kate Perle	Gary Wildish	Charlotte Hennessy	Peter Simmeth
Matt Vohs	Jerry Mohr	Terry Narva	Jim Weidemeier	
Terri Reed	Scott Sorenson	Joel Narva	Dawn Lesley	
Louie Vidmar	Kevin Reed	Chris Fuller	Gary Haliski*	

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. She asked for self-introductions from the audience. She then introduced Peter Simmeth representing Better Eugene Springfield Transportation (BEST). He explained what BEST is and its mission. Its current project is reviewing the needs for Highway 99 and for River Road using an Oregon Department of Transportation grant. A similar study has been completed for Franklin Boulevard. Methods to determine these needs will include a survey, testimonials, conversations and community events. The product will not be the end of the process but recommendations will undergo continuous refinement. The report will involve a formal memo and a Q & A document. He then opened the discussion to audience input: Who should we talk to? Whose voices have been missed in the past? What challenges might the City and LTD not anticipate? Peter then took considerable input from the audience and kept notes. He said the survey will be sent out in January and in March and May will report back as to what they are finding out. Contact for Peter Simmith: peter@best-oregon.org and for the BEST director, Rob Zako: rob@best-oregon.org. The program conclude at 7:47 p.m.

Kate reported that the City of Eugene would like SCCO support in advocating for a 35 mph speed limit from Azalea to a little past Beacon Drive in their petition with ODOT. There was a discussion that maybe it be 35 mph up to Carthage and then 40 after that. In the end it was decided to support 35 mph for the entire length. Gary Wildish moved that SCCO support the City of Eugene with this letter, Dawn Lesley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kate opened the business meeting. Terri moved the minutes from the November 6 meeting be approved as submitted. Matt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Under New Business, Terri announced a food box drive for the holidays. There will be a coffee hour at St. Matthew's December 17 in order to assemble 20 food boxes for local elementary school families. In the meantime tax deductible cash donations can be made through Eugene Neighbors, Inc through December 12.

Terri reported that St. Matthews is fundraising to support its cottages for the housing challenged and that the next cleanup at the Navigation Center will be Friday, December 5. Gary Wildish, SCCO's representative to the Center, reported that the Center is under a financial crunch and is finding a challenge in keeping available services but is ahead of schedule in finding permanent housing for its residents.

Reports:

- Gary Haliski reported that the next work party at Awbrey Park is coming up in two days
- Jerry Mohr reported that the Foundation is launching a fundraising drive in the next phase to save the historic schoolhouse.
- Kate reported that a small group of representatives from SCCO and RRCO is meeting with the City to advance the action items in the Neighborhood Plan. The group will establish regular meetings with City departments to collaborate on these action items. The first topic area will be transportation.
- Land Use: Kate reported on just one active application – Ava Haven at 3005 Ava Street. Final subdivision request to create 9 total parcels from 3 current ones.
- Jerry Mohr said she is putting together the next mailed newsletter and, since she will be gone from the middle of December and into January, needs people to submit content as soon as possible. She hopes it will be published in February. Kate reported that more funds might be available as the City had not invoiced the County for the funds they promised for this for the last couple of years and is now doing so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted,
Jerry Finigan, secretary