

Santa Clara Community Organization
Executive Board meeting minutes
September 2, 2021 (via Zoom)

Those in attendance – total 20 (7 Board members and 13 others)

Board:

Michael Nieman
Kate Perle
Jerry Finigan
Tim Foelker
Jerry Mohr
Dawn Lesley
Matt Vohs

Community members:

Gary Haliski
Mary Leontovich
Ann Vaughn
Joel Robe
Carey Hilbert
Jimeva Welch

Gay Kramer Dodd
Tim Berquist
Judie Gatson
Kellie Steiner
Michael Kimball

Presenters:

Dan Bryant
Andrew Heben

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by the Chair, Kate Perle. She called for introductions of those present.

Kate introduced Dan Bryant of Square One Village and Dan introduced Andrew Heben. They both gave an update on the proposed co-housing village planned for the Peace Presbyterian lot. Dan said Square One is near the close of the purchase agreement with the Church and once completed will begin creating a resident-owned housing village. This will be overseen by Square One through a land-trust. Andrew shared screen to show the conceptual drawing of the proposed project. This was followed by a question/answer session. The presentation was completed at 7:47 p.m.

Dawn moved the minutes from the August 5 general meeting be approved as submitted, Tim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Gary Haliski of the Social Justice Committee gave a presentation about racial red-lining and racial covenants especially focusing on Decatur Illinois and Portland Oregon. He said no black people were allowed to settle in Eugene up to 1957.

Old Business:

There was a discussion about issues raised by the recent racial-targeting event as to the roles and responsibilities of SCCO members as to how far they should go in supporting victims.

-Matt: If there's an ongoing investigation should an organization step in uninvited?

-Michael: Is our concern here about the divisiveness it might produce?

-Kate: It is not really our role to work on peoples behalf; it is to help them find the resources they need.

-Michael: The Diversity Statement should trump everything.

-Dawn: It is a better policy to support victim's reactions, not to lead them

-Gary: Why would anyone come to us for support if we really don't do anything?

-Tim: We need to develop a clear process and direction.

-Judie: SCCO could facilitate a full community response.

-Michael: Concern for the community in just this one area may alienate the neighborhood at large from us.

-Tim: We need to get statistics concerning what problems are predominant in our area to focus our energies.

-Dawn: To gain community support and involvement, adding a Hospitality Committee would be helpful, and a better addition than a Crime Statistics Committee.

New Business:

- Establishing a policy for voting on-line between meetings.

Discussion: It wasn't clear what we were voting on when asked to vote to support the RRCO Social Justice letter. We need to keep a record of all the discussion on a motion over e-mail and confirm the vote at a regular meeting. These votes should only occur on time-sensitive issues where we can't wait until the next regular meeting. Tim will post a proposed process on the SCCO website.

- Support for the letter from the RRCO Social Justice Committee to the City:

Dawn said that SCCO has already testified at City hearings on this subject the RRCO wants greater weight to their letter by getting other neighborhood support. Michael said he would like more time to read and consider the letter. Dawn said it looks like there is no rush to make this decision and it could wait until next month. Jerry M advised that it is easier to find relevant e-mails if we begin with "SCCO" in the subject line.

Announcement: Kate said co-chairs of RRCO and she met with the new HRNI director, Robert Brack and discussed the use of the former Vets clinic on River Avenue as a homeless navigation center.

Reports:

- Santa Clara Community Foundation – Tim reported there is a non-profit training session scheduled for September 7 at 3 p.m. Kate said we need to set a date to meet at the schoolhouse for a eyes-on survey. Gary Wildish is costing out the restoration phasing plan. The foundation seems adequate and there doesn't seem to be any apparent asbestos. The paint will need to be checked for lead.
- Santa Clara Community Garden – There is a work session set up for a variety of activities on September 11 from 9 to noon.
- Friends of Awbrey Park – The first work session of the year will be on Saturday, October 2 from 9 to noon.
- Bat Phone: Mary Leontovich was in charge of the phone during August and she reported there was no activity on the phone during the month.
- Social Justice Committee: Dawn said the committee may grow by two more members and are accepting applications.

Other: Michael asked about the fruit and nut trees on the Community Park land and wondered about their fate. Tim said the City plan does not include them but will enquire with City planners about the possibility of using the smaller trees for a master gardener pruning demonstration.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted, Jerry Finigan