

SONA Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2011

The meeting was brought to order by Duane Brooks at 7:01pm at the Southeast Police Precinct.

Attendees:

Dorothy & Bud Anderson – Lynch Park NA	Mike Battershell – Hanscom Park NA
Sue Bednarz – H& L CAG	Del Bomberger – Stephen Center
Duane Brooks – Karen Western NA	Teresa Dameron – Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Oscar Duran – Deer Park NA	Vince Furlong – Omaha Urban Neighborhoods
Carol Haas – Leavenworth NA	Chuck Hooley – Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Mary Kerwin – Highland Park NA	Jim Kresnik – Morton Park NA
Mary Ann Krzemien - SOETF	Tim Leininger – Social Settlement NA
Heath Mello – Nebraska Legislature, LD 5	Lacey Merica – AA, Legislative District 5
Pat O'Hanlon – One World Comm. Health Ctr	Dorothy Patach – SOBA
Tim Potter – AkSarBen/Emlwood Park NA	Don Preister – SOETF
Crystal Rhoades – Neighborhood Center	Joyce & Tom Theiler – Beals NA

No changes were made to the minutes. Crystal Rhoades moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Oscar Duran. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tim Leininger reported that \$500 was deposited for the Kiewit sponsored clean-up event, and \$0.43 in interest was earned. We paid out funds for the clean-up and a rain barrel, leaving us with a current balance of \$9,570.65.

Police Report: There was no Police Report during the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Chuck Hooley and Teresa Dameron from the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska attended to give an update on the proposed expansion to the Fred LeRoy Health Center. They passed around site plan maps for the expansion. They met with planning board members to go over the options they can present to the zoning board. . They recommended curb parking instead of a parking lot. The future city plans are to ask all new development to use reverse curbside parking. The plan adds about 90 parking places, and they are waiting for a final decision on one of their proposals. They will appear before the zoning board in December. They are still accepting letters of support. They need them by Thanksgiving. Please send them a copy of the letter if you send one directly to the Zoning Board. We will distributed the request and sample letter again. The diagonal parking works for the project because J Street was originally designed to be a boulevard with a median in the middle, so it is very wide. They are also planning a meeting with residents in the area.

Legislative Update: Lacey Merica shared that there is currently a special session going on about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Please feel free to contact your Senator's office with any comments you have about the pipeline. An informal poll was taken at the meeting, with 7 voting in support of the pipeline, 12 in favor of rerouting the pipeline, 1 opposed to the pipeline project, and 1 undecided.

City Council Update: Garry Gerandt reported on several issues:

- The Omaha Chamber of Commerce has a website asking for feedback on their projects. Please visit <http://NBDFeedback.wordpress.com>
- The team from Graffiti Consultants will be re-visiting Omaha on November 9th.
- The Omaha Police Department has developed a “SNAP” form. It is a form to list the serial numbers from your tools, appliances, etc to assist police if the items are ever stolen.
- There is a meeting with Sherwin Williams to see if they will provide funding for more graffiti kits.
- Garry met with the Mayor's Youth Commission to get their input on graffiti problems.

President's Report: Duane reported on several issues:

- Fall Clean-Ups were hosted by the Spring Lake and Karen Western Neighborhood Associations. Karen Western passed out flyers in the neighborhood and through the school newsletter. They filled their

dumpster by noon. Overall it went well. Spring Lake had 3 dumpsters. They filled half of one but didn't publicize the event much.

- Dorothy Patach Garden/Historical Grant: We received a \$2500 historical grant in 2011. It was originally going to be used for a plaque at the Tree of Life. The City said this plaque would cost around \$10,000, so it was decided to use the funds for the Dorothy Patach Garden. We looked into using it for installing water at the garden, but that will cost about \$10,000 as well. We also have looked into using the funds for repairing park signs in South Omaha. Another option would be to return the funds to the committee. A discussion about this issue was held. Jim Kresnik motioned to encumber the funds and use them towards the watering plans. This was seconded by Tim Leininger, and was approved 18-1.
- Santa at the Southeast Precinct: Ofelia Robles send out an letter about the event. It will be on December 11th, from 1-4PM at South High. They had 2800 attend last year. They need volunteers and donationas. This year they are cutting the age limit down to 10. They are also looking for a very large artificial tree.
- The Keystone connector trail is done from 60th & Buckingham Streets to 45th & G Streets.
- The Hanscom Park Dog Park will have its grand opening on November 19th at noon. They have small, big, and all dog areas, with seating, water, and fences. There will be a chili feed afterward at the gazebo.

Elections: The Nomination Committee's final nomination slate was distributed. Crystal Rhoades moved to elect the slate by acclimation, and was seconded by Carol Haas. This was approved unanimously.

Don Preister proposed changing the SONA mission from:

“The mission of SONA is to enhance South Omaha neighborhoods through communication, community collaborations, empowering families, and promoting positive perceptions.” TO

“The mission of SONA is to enhance South Omaha neighborhoods through communication, collaboration, empowerment, and promoting positive perceptions.”

It was decided to send information about about possible changes to the full SONA group to decide on at the February meeting.

Our next meeting will be December 1st at 6:00pm. This meeting will be our holiday party, and a sign up sheet to bring desserts and side dishes was passed around.

Oscar Duran motioned to adjourn, and was seconded by Jim Kresnik. The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:26pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lacey Merica.