

SONA Monthly Meeting
April 7, 2016
Minutes

Attendance: Sue Bednarz, Janet Bonet, Joel Cota, Oscar Duran, Bill Gaughan, Garry Gernandt, Dolores and Gabriel Gomez, Carol Haas, Brian Kruse, Mary Ann Krzemien, Mary Locati, Norita Matt, Madeline Moyer, Michael McGuire, Pat O'Hanlon, Vinny Palermo, Dorothy Patach, Tim Potter, Don Preister, Carolina Quezada, Athena Ramos, Julie Smith, Kimara Snipe, Bill Stott John Synowiecki, Tom & Joyce Theiler, Anna Wilcoxon

Visitors: Tiffany Jones "Hunger Free Heartland", Gary Kastrick, Dawn Hargis, Richard Harrison "A Midsummer's Mural"

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of November 2015, February 2016, and March 2016 minutes. MOTION TO APPROVE (Oscar Duran, 2nd Joel Cota). Motion carried.

Public Officials

- City Council - Garry Gernandt
 - City of Omaha will host the Zero Graffiti International Roadshow at the Scott Conference Center on May 26 – 27, 2016. Registration is \$175.00. Deer Park Neighborhood Association has scholarships available for those interested in attending. See Garry after the meeting if you're interested. Athena will speak on behalf of SONA at the conference.
- Douglas County Election Commission - Brian Kruse
 - Early Voting is underway. Ballots can be dropped off at the Drop Box at the South Omaha Public Library
- Mayor's Office - Joel Cota
 - The Mayor has submitted a letter of support for Sen. Mello's bill, LB 947
- Legislative Office - Sen. Heath Mello (see attached written report)
- One Omaha
 - Will be hosting a website training on 4/20 and 4/25. Please register.
 - Citizens Academy under way and going well.
 - Civic Health Summit on April 2, 2016 was great and had good attendance.

Old Business

- SONA Banquet - June 2, 2016. Everyone is invited to buy their tickets at <https://southomahabanquet.eventbrite.com>. Tickets are \$50/person or \$400/table. The group is currently working on soliciting sponsorship. We need everyone's to help support the event and make it a success.
- Community Development Award - SONA was recognized on March 31, 2016 by the City of Omaha Planning Department for our efforts in the area.
- NUSA Conference Scholarship – SONA has received two requests for registration scholarships (Janet Bonet and Kimara Snipe). MOTION TO APPROVE SCHOLARSHIP

REQUESTS (Sue Bednarz, 2nd Don Preister). Motion carries. Three scholarships are still available from the Mayor's office for pre-registration and Julie Smith will help those with no other options. Two buses from Omaha are going to the conference. The cost is around \$7,000 each. MOTION TO USE REMAINING \$200 ALLOCATED FOR NUSA FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION (Norita Matt, 2nd Janet Bonet). Motion carries.

New Business

- South Omaha Mural Project - Richard Harrison
Presented information about the South Omaha Mural Project (8 murals representing different cultures in South Omaha). Murals are created through dialogues and design workshops with community members from each culture. SONA has agreed to be a fiscal agent for some grants for the project.
 - Gary Kastrick is inviting everyone to participate in mural project by providing historical information. There are number of upcoming fundraisers to support the project: Mural Project Wine Tasting Fundraiser, April 21, 2016 from 5:30 – 7pm and Irish Mural Fundraiser at Donahue's, May 4, 2016 from 5:30 - 8:30pm.
 - Strategic Planning Activity – Group reviewed the South Omaha assets that were listed in February 2016 meeting. Then each person was asked to brainstorm activities that could strengthen or enhance these assets.
-

Food

- Food Fair
- Food Truck Park (Festival)
- Food Tasting Tours

Family

- Family Event/Bug Day: Highlight Nebraska Bugs
- Box Derby Family Night
- Family Event: Swimming Events
- Free Public Movie Nights

Ethnicity

- Participate in Cinco de Mayo Parade, as SONA and all member associations
- Journey through the history of South O: Stories about “the roots” of how it all began.
- Host speaking series at different restaurants and have it be a charitable event (round checks up to donate to non-profits)
- Tour ethnic churches
 - Each church would have a festival and baseball team?

Fun

- Biking Tour
- Community Picnic and Polka Dance
- Ethnic Dance Festival and Music (Not only on stage, but public dancing)
- Community Picnic

Festivals

- Ethnic Fairs and Festivals, utilize parks
- Table at church festivals to spread the word about the association and alliance
- More promotion of Ethnic Festivals

Community Organizing

- Community organizing workshops
- Mock City Council Meetings
- Townhall meeting with politicians

Cleanliness

- We need to keep South Omaha cleaner. Too many people throw their trash in the streets
 - Litter clean ups with Keep Omaha Beautiful.
-

Neighborhood News & Partner Updates

- Mary Ann K. – The Reader magazine has full page article about ONE Omaha. Garry Germandt also brought copies of a full-page article about SONA.
- Spring Lake Park Event @ 4:30 pm
- Hunger Free Heartland - Postcards, bookmarks and flyers to help get word out
- Beals N.A. is planning for their Summer Picnic and National Night Out events that are coming up.
- Christie Heights N.A. is thankful for the new improvements to the ball field
- Aksarben N.A. - Construction is starting for last major lot development.
- Kroc Center – will be hosting the 2016 SBA Person of the Year on May 3, 2016 from 8:30am - 12:30pm which will include workshops. It is a free event and open to public, but those interested must register.
- Spring Lake Park Team will be hosting an Open House. Playground equipment will be put in/currently renovating. So far they have raised \$4,000 towards match. They have also submitted for Neighborhoods Grant but requires community involvement.
- SOETF – If you smell any odors, contact 402-444-4919. The next meeting will be May 12, 2016 @ 7:30 am at the South Omaha Public Library. There is usually good representation from the city and industry, but not from community members. Please come.
- Hanscom Park N.A. will be having a tour of the city's greenhouse for their next meeting.
- Green Omaha Coalition is hosting an Earth Day Celebration on April 16, 2016. Green Bellevue will also have their own celebration on April 24, 2016 in the Bellevue Public Schools' Lied Center. There will be a run that starts at 10:00 am, but event starts at 12pm.
- South Omaha Business Association (SOBA) is preparing for Cinco de Mayo.
- Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) - Need volunteers for Cinco De Mayo. If interested, please contact Volunteers@cincodemayoomaha.com. KOB is also starting a Helping Hands Project. Call Meredith for more information.
- Sue Bednarz - gardening has begun
- Dahlman N.A. - Received grant from Peter Kiewit Foundation for neighborhood banners.
- City Sprouts South (CSS/DPEA) – has opportunities for a 4 part-time/seasonal internships (youth and adults). Applications were distributed during meeting, but are also available on SONA's website. CSS will be hosting a community build day on April 9, 2016 from 9am-12pm. All are invited to participate. For more information contact, Athena Ramos, aramos@unmc.edu.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.