

SONA Monthly Meeting
May 5, 2016
Minutes

Attendance: Sue Bednarz, Karen Bluvas, Duane Brooks, Oscar Duran, Mary Easley, Bill Gaughan, Garry Gernandt, Tiffany Jones, Mary Locati, Norita Matt, Michael McGuire, Rachel Meier, Heath Mello, Chris Miller, Madeline Moyer, Dorothy Patach, Charles Posey, Tim Potter, Don Preister, Rafael Santa-Maria, Dolores Semin, Julie Smith, Jeff Spiehs, John Synowiecki, Mary Thompson, Natalia Trinidad

Guests: Allen Straub – OPD, Katie Temple - Arts for All, Sergio Robles - Omaha Fire Dept., Jasmine Harris - Creighton University, Jim Meier - Honor and Remember, Geoffrey Bell - NE Democratic Party, and Dun Guereca - NE Democratic Party

Meeting called to order.

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of April 2016 minutes. MOTION TO APPROVE (Don Preister, 2nd Tim Potter). Motion carried.

Treasurer' Report

- Checking balance \$30,669.20; Savings balance \$5491.65.
- SONA settled with festival as fiscal agent and remainder distributed. We also paid NUSA registrations.

Police Report

- Several officers dedicated to Cinco de Mayo festivities
- Donald Trump event - 50 officers dedicated to event
- There has been an uptick in destruction of property, but gang unit is targeting these crimes
- There was a robbery at Mega Saver, but citizens intervened
- Stolen car recovered; drugs/guns found on suspect; financial transaction devices; citizen flagged policeman down
- Need citizens to call 911 and advise of anything that happens. Cell phones do not have a 9-1-1-system, but this will be a big issue to tackle next year.

Elected Officials

- Councilman Garry.Gernandt
 - Zero Graffiti Int'l Conference was cancelled
 - Adjusted tax values established for northeast and western part of Omaha, but City and Douglas County have come together to challenge the change. This change could have broad effects for the entire city.
 - Planning Department Booklet - describes majority of processes and all association leaders are urged to have in their resource library

- Metro Community College - will offer summer classes for kids (5-10 years and teenagers also). They will have the opportunity to learn instruments, science classes, learn how to write scripts, etc. To register: www.mccneb.edu or info can be emailed. There will also be classes for adults wanting to start small businesses (in English and Spanish).
- Sen. Mello
 - 2016 Legislative session ended a few weeks ago and this was Sen. Mello's last year in the legislature and discussed key bills that Sen. Mello has worked on including workforce development bill regarding immigrants qualifying for professional and commercial licenses passed.
- One Omaha - Julie Smith
 - Neighborhood leadership development program will have more information to come
 - Please provide projects that neighborhood associations are working on as Julie has a business that wants to support projects.
 - Neighborhood visioning process can be set up

Old Business

SONA Banquet will be held on June 2, 2016 at the Kroc Center. SONA will present awards and scholarships. We need SONA members to buy their tickets and need help with sponsorships.

New Business

Armed Forces Day (Jim Meyer) will be May 21, 2016. There will be a special event at the Holland Performing Arts Center. Tickets: \$40-60

Omaha Tobacco Free Parks Initiative (Natalia Trinidad & Jasmine Harris) needs community support and all SONA members are encouraged to fill out an organizational endorsement form. Tobacco trash is an environmental and public health issue. MOTAC will be hosting the annual Tobacco Trash/Park Clean-Up on May 31, 2016 starting at 9am at the following locations:

Hitchcock, Hanscom, and Lake Zorinski. Business are welcome to send volunteers.

Neighborhood News/Partner Updates

- SOETF meeting in May – We need citizen participation.
- NUSA Omaha 2017 conference is forming committees. Both Norita and Julie on social planning/events programming. Please contact one of them if you are interested in helping out.
- Lacey Merica – please attend a committee interview for new principal, Monday at 4:30 pm at Indian Hill School.
- Juan Diego Center - Naturalization clinic info is available. Clinics are usually held on Saturdays to prepare for the test.
- Habitat for Humanity has 0% loans for families.
- Deer Park Neighborhood Association is having a series of Spanish-language listening sessions.
- Dahlman Neighborhood Association is having a Walking Tour on June 4, 2016. Information is on Facebook. Event will start at 8:30 am at 10th & Bancroft.

Meeting adjourned.