

SONA Monthly Meeting
September 1, 2016
Minutes

Attendees: Anthony & Kristin Albers, Sue Bednarz, Karen Bluvas, Janet Bonet, Joel Cota, Oscar Duran, Roger Garcia, Garry Gernandt, Charlie Gould, Carol Haas, Mary Ann Krzemien, Mary Locati, Michael McGuire, Heath Mello, Dorothy Patach, Charles Posey, Don Preister, Athena Ramos, Anita Rojas, Julie Smith, Kimara Snipe, Tom & Joyce Theiler, Anna Wilcoxon

Guests: Don Bacon, Marty Barnhart, Diana Failla, Roxanne Nielsen, S. Allen Straub

Meeting called to order.

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of August 2016 minutes. MOTION TO APPROVE (Don Preister, 2nd Kimara Snipe). Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - NO REPORT; Update will come next month.

Police Report (SE Precinct)

- National Night Out was very successful. Many neighborhood organizations participated.
- There was a report of a cutting on Monday. There was a 14-year old girl, but no cutting.
- Airport incident: Meth is an increasing problem in the city. Police encounter people every day who are on meth. Meth causes superhuman activity. Multiple officers usually sent to the scene when meth involved or suspected to be involved. Officers attempt to use the least amount of force possible. If you know someone using drugs, please get them help right away
- Felony Assault: A broken bottle was used to cut someone who later walked on interstate to 42nd Street. Suspect was on meth. Police had to shut down interstate and train traffic. Suspect attacked police dog with a pipe.
- Motor Vehicle theft is occurring mostly in zoo area. People have left their keys or other belongings in the car. Please do not leave your belongings in the car.
- Robberies: NONE to report.
- Felony Assault: Not high in east South Omaha
- Burglaries: High in this area. This is a good opportunity for neighborhood watches. Call the police if you see something suspicious. Get as much detail as you can. Don't leave garage door openers in the car. People are having items stolen from their yards.

Elected Officials' Reports

- Senator Mello - LD5
 - Interim Studies: (1) Staffing issue in the prison system and (2) Mental health issue
 - Select committees: Mental & behavioral task force and committee on climate change; A conference will be held in October.
 - Term ends 12/31
 - Rachel Meier decided to leave her position effective last week and will be consulting for children's groups

- Thanks to Senator Mello for donating Husker football tickets for this weekend's game for the 50/50 raffle!
- Mayor's Office
 - Town Hall Meetings will begin 9/22/16. The South Omaha meeting will be held on November 1, 2016 at the South Omaha Library
- Don Preister - Bellevue City Council
 - Shared a OWH article
- Roger Garcia - MCC
 - Fred Conley will be resigning effective 09/29/16 so situation is resolved.
 - Currently working on the budget process.
 - MCC is looking to collaborate with industry partners on the new facility.
 - 50% discount on tuition for seniors available and there are options for youth
- Garry Gernandt – City Council
 - SONA served as the fiscal agent for some of the South Omaha Murals that have been developed. Councilman Gernandt shared a press release about the Polish mural.
 - The City is current doing a pilot program proposal for waste collection that includes 2450 homes; however, none of the homes are east of 72nd street.
 - Passed 2017 budget which included amendments to get funding for PACE program and a four-week day camp in South Omaha. Councilman Gernandt is positive that the Mayor will approve.
- Don Bacon - Congressional candidate
 - Offutt brought him to Omaha. He is looking forward to learn more about SONA.

One Omaha - Julie Smith

- In the Neighborhood Conference will be held on October 1, 2016. A \$10.00 deposit is required for registration; however, you will get it back when you attend. The agenda includes a City council visioning process and \$500 mini-grants will be available to people who pitch a project.
- Training is available on: Facilitation Training (offered 6 times this month) and Next Door.com training
- Roxanne Nielsen with Vic Putnam & Associates is working to help plan the both the local and the national NUSA conferences. Please send her questions, suggestions, or thoughts. They are looking for workshop proposals for NUSA, which are due September 30, 2016 as well as neighborhood pride tours. In order to propose a tour, you need to be able to host 40 people, provide two leaders, a meal, discuss the stops and what you will visit, describe what participants will learn, and what (if any) handouts you will have. The tour is four hours long, and they are looking for 16 tours.

Old Business

New Business

- Letter of support for EAB Project: Diana Fiaila from Midtown Neighborhood Alliance and the Urban Bird and Nature Alliance is applying for a Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant to educate and mitigate the effect of emerald ash borer on the Omaha community, especially the historic neighborhoods. The group will work with 5 neighborhoods (prone to loss) each year to educate them about EAB, mitigation strategies, and tree planting. The project also proposes to wrap ash trees to create a visual impact and offer trolley rides to areas to show people the trees. She hopes

to create enough to impact, but still keep the project small enough to be realistic. She is willing to come out to neighborhoods and discuss. She requested a letter of support from SONA for the grant. MOTION TO APPROVE (Garry Gernandt, 2nd Don Preister). Motion carried.

- Presentation about the Omaha Landbank by guest speaker, Marty Barnhart

Neighborhood News & Partner Updates

- Aksarben is doing a neighborhood tour on Sunday, Oct. 2 from noon - 5:00. There will be a shuttle bus or you can walk/bike tour. The tour is supported by the American Institute of Architects. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at Mt. Calvary Church or resorationexchange.org. There is a discount for Restoration Exchange members. Tour is free if registration is renewed.
- Deer Park - Urban mentorship program went well at 0th & Bancroft
- South O Library will be hosting 3 citizenship classes and there is room for 3 more students. Mike Battershell gave SONA related items from 1965-2008 to the library to hold.
- Beals N.A. had a good National Night Out and has an October association meeting coming up.

Meeting adjourned.