

SONA Monthly Meeting
October 6, 2016
Minutes

Attendees: Sue Bednarz, Karen Bluvas, Janet Bonet, Melissa Bula, Callyann Casteel, Garry Gernandt, Delores and Gabriel Gomez, Mary Ann Krzemien, Mary Locati, Michael McGuire, Vinny Palermo, Charles Posey, Tim Potter, Don Preister, Kimara Snipe, Jeff Spiehs, Bill Stott, John Synowiecki, Tom and Joyce Theiler, Maj. Todd Thielke, and Anna Wilcoxon

Guests: Dan Esch, Jo Giles, Jason Rose

Meeting called to order.

Welcome and Introductions

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

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

Police Report (SE Precinct) – Given by Garry Gernandt

- Motor vehicle theft is up, especially Chevrolet pickups and Hondas
- Clown Issue - Discuss with youth; Be overly cautious about what's going on the internet
- Between 36th Street W up to about 51st on both sides of Harrison and going up to Q Street a lot of egging and rifling through cars and stealing things out of yards. Bellevue and OPD are collaborating on this issue. PLEASE report any issues as many of these are not being reported.

Elected Officials

- Dan Esch - Douglas County Clerk
 - \$45 million public safety bond issue is on the upcoming ballot. It won't have an effect on current tax rate (at this point). It will be used for 9-1-1, Correctional Center, and consolidating savings. There has been concern expressed about facilities (not just this one) continuing to be moved out to west Omaha.
- Garry Gernandt - City Council
 - Councilman Gernandt has discussed the waste collection pilot program with the Mayor. There is nothing is east of 72nd street. He is worried that Waste Management will get a lot of misinformation because streets are wider out there as opposed to South Omaha.
- One Omaha
 - IN the Neighborhoods Conference
 - Conference was well attended. There was a City Council Visioning session. The main question was: What would you like your district to look like in 3 - 5 years? Six columns of action item suggestions were developed. Information will be distributed to council members in the days/weeks/months to come. Next steps include identifying funding and partners.
 - Received 25 project proposals; \$6,000 is coming from First National Bank. One Omaha will seek additional funding for future projects.

New Business

Open Sky Institute, Jo Giles, Outreach Director

- The Institute is a non-partisan group that looks at policies proposed by state lawmakers and analyzes their impact. They are particularly focused on the appropriations committee: What is appropriated? What policies affect those appropriations? Currently, there are three major areas that comprise majority of budget: (1) Education (k-12 and higher ed); (2) Healthcare (Medicaid and children's health); and (3) Juvenile justice (child welfare). Nebraska is #49 in the states for amount of taxes going towards public education. Nebraska's tax system is regressive in that lower income individuals pay a greater portion of salary in taxes such as sales tax, property tax, and income tax. Tax shift proposals coming up that will shift more taxes to low income people. Nebraska has a \$350 million shortfall, and the Governor asking all agencies to cut spending by 8%.

Neighborhood News & Partner Updates

- Don Preister - 24th Street South is 5th nicest streetscape in the country. Green Omaha Coalition has a lot of good things happening.
- Garry Gernandt – Distributed the early voting ballot application. The South Omaha Historical Grant is due Nov. 9. Applications are online at cityofomaha.org.
- Habitat for Humanity – Distributed Hope Repairs information
- SOETF Meeting will be held at 7:30am on the 2nd. This group deals with odor control issues. If you call and want a report/call back you must let the operator know. You will not always know when the city does something. Meeting times are inconvenient for some. Perhaps, have a discussion with Duane who is the chairperson.
- Tire Dump this Saturday at Levi Carter Park from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.
- Kroc Center does have options available for those who can't afford services
- Deer Park is focusing redevelopment in parts of the neighborhood. They are currently considering a small business grant program. If you have a business in the area and some work to do (reconstruction, etc) you can apply for a grant for half of the cost that will be funded by the Sherwood Foundation (\$100,000).
- Omaha by Design has a grant for public art. They hosted a public input session, and an announcement will be made 10/14/16.
- Broom Man Project
- Smart Steps OPPD Program is a three-phase program. Talk to Julie Martin at OPPD if interested.
- DOI is holding networking.

Meeting adjourned.