

SONA Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2012

The meeting was brought to order by Mike Battershell at 7:05pm.

Attendees:

Sign-in sheet missing	
-----------------------	--

Crystal Rhoades moved to approve the minutes from the April 2012 meeting and was seconded by Dorothy Patach. The motion was approved.

Guest Speakers:

Chad Weaver from the City of Omaha attended the meeting because Old Market South and Deer Park NA's requested to have a discussion about the proposed project for 10th Street. It would be a residential development with commercial potential. Chad said the future plans for the area are to have low density residential along the 10th St corridor, with some commercial properties in the 10th & Bancroft area. When the 10th St plan was adopted, NCE changed some of the low density to high density and added some more commercial areas. The current zoning in place does match the land use plan. The proposed project is zoned multi-family, but it a low density residential area on the land use plan. He has not been able to meet with the property owner yet to discuss the proposal. He stated the owner was told for TIF, the plan would have to stay residential only and the coffee shop proposal was felt to feel under commercial. Arnie Breslow stated that when the NCE was done, they originally wanted the west side of 10th St to be all commercial, to develop a walking promenade from the zoo to the Old Market, but they didn't zone all of it that way because it would have complicated the NCE. Chad advised if the commercial development proceeded, they would have to redo TIF, the master plan, and zoning. The current plan has commercial zones at the north and south ends of the area. There are some existing properties that don't fit in with the land use plan. The time to redo the plans would be 90-120 days, plus time to fix the land use plan changes. Garry Gerandt stated the original agreement was to have a community room, not specifically a coffee shop. Old Market South and Deer Park would like support from SONA that the coffee shop and help making changes to the plan is wanted. Chad said the first step would be a meeting between Old Market South and the planning board to discuss changing the NCE. The property owner would also have to reapply for TIF. Garry encouraged them to meet.

Annual Banquet: Invitations for the annual banquet were stuffed at the meeting. It will be 6/7 at the Kroc Center, social hour at 5:30, Dinner at 6. Cara Riggs, the principal at South High, will be the guest speaker and will bring some students with her. Please try to find a sponsor for your Neighborhood Association's table! Three tables have been sold so far.

Neighbor Graffiti Kits: Crystal thanked everyone for helping assemble these during the meeting. They are designed for people to take care of graffiti on their own block, not for a graffiti sweep.

Website Funding: Mike discussed the plans to have a MidtownOmaha.org style website for all of Omaha. It would have more information, allow people to look up their neighborhood association, and would let each NA have their own page to have more specific information. Don Preister motioned to allocate \$2500 towards the website development, and was seconded by Duane Brooks. The motion was approved.

Mayor Meeting Update: SONA leadership met with Mayor Suttle on 4/25/12. Many topics were discussed. We will be working on some parks initiatives. We were asked to think of what services we could do without to prevent taxes being raised.

City Council Updates:Garry Gernandt thanked SONA and the Neighborhood Center for all the graffiti help. 10 of the 26 recommendations from the graffiti consultants blueprint are up and going. There will be a meeting about the housing study in May, and a survey for this was passed around.

LOCAL Effort: There was not a majority of support on the city council for changing the city density requirements. They are working on a project that would address a few of the issues raised and a compromise is in the works.

Announcements:

The Universally Human festival in Deer Park is next weekend.

On May 6, OFD will host Hooks and Ladders, with free fishing in Hanscom Park from 12-2. No permits required.

On May 19, AARP will have free document shredding at the Center Mall at 9am. On this day, the Omaha Tennis Association will have free clinics at noon at Hanscom Park.

There are multiple Neighborhood clean-ups on May 19. Spring Lake will be taking tires at South High. Leavenworth and Ford Birth Site NAs received a grant for a new mural on the Avanza building.

The Cinco de Mayo celebration is this weekend.

The motif on Bag N Save on Vinton St may be changing.

Jama Samiev thanked everyone for their support. The new restaurant is doing well!

The next SOETF Meeting is in June

Mary Ann Krezmien shared that Jim Kresnick is finishing his term as president of Morton Park NA, but they have not found someone to replace him.

Arnie thanked everyone for their support in the coffee shop effort.

Karen Western NA had their clean-up last week, filled 3 dumpsters and collected \$200.

Garry congratulated all the Mayor's grant winners. Rosenblatt demolition will begin late July/early August. Waterman Automotive on 10th & Bancroft has been sold and is proposed to be 24/7 retail space. There is a CSO project meeting in two weeks regarding the Gilmore Basin, which is most of South Omaha, on May 17.

The second phase of the Emerging Terrain project is starting on the silos

The SONA banquet is June 7, 2012. Our next meeting will be August 2, 2012.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don, seconded by Crystal and passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm

Respectfully submitted by Lacey Merica