

SOMERSET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022

ATTENDEES: The SCA Board Members (there were six in attendance - Francis Brito, Johannes Grad, Charlie Bofferding, Diane Fern, Gary Albert, Sue Sander, and four via Zoom - Allan Yeung, Marie Vieth, Muriel Mittelstrass, Yiyi Guo), ten Somerset residents that attended in-person, and approximately eighty via Zoom. In addition, there were seven City of Bellevue (COB) staff to present information and answer questions relating to Somerset issues and the recent landslide that affected the Surdi's home, after the end of the meeting. All attendees were able to view the power point presentation, and it is available on the SCA website.

HANDOUTS: The handouts for the meeting included an Agenda, 2021 General Meeting Minutes, Proposed 2022 Budget, Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2022, and Speaker Contact and Current/New Board Member Information Sheet. This information was provided at the Forest Ridge location and/or via the SCA website.

CALL TO ORDER: SCA's President Francis Brito called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

WELCOME and PRESIDENT REPORT: Francis Brito started the meeting by welcoming all attendees. Based on the number of attendees and submitted proxy documents, he declared a Quorum for this Annual General Meeting. Francis provided an overview of the Agenda, reviewed SCA 2022 activities, introduced Current Board Members, and thanked our Outgoing Board Members. He also stated that at the end of the meeting there will be a Q/A session and after that the City of Bellevue Staff will provide a presentation and answer questions regarding Somerset's current issues including the recent landslide.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Francis gave a brief overview of the minutes and there being no questions, Gary Albert moved to approve the minutes from the Annual General Membership Meeting on January 17, 2021, it was seconded by Kristen Iversen, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS: Diane Fern (VP/CRC Chair) stated that her first responsibility at the meeting was the election of two BOD members. She stated that Francis Brito will likely become the Pride Committee Chair and Muriel Mittelstrass, the Bellevue School District Liaison. The vote was taken, and the two were elected as Directors of the SCA.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marie Vieth (Treasurer) stated that a review of the 2020 Financial Records was conducted by a Financial Review Committee consisting of Johannes Grad, Charles Bofferding, and Francis Brito and they validated the documents. She then provided an overview of SCA's income and assets, including a surplus. She stated that the proposed budget for 2022 will have a total revenue of \$77,402, expenses of \$87,902, and a deficit of \$10,500, which will be covered by the surplus. SCA's largest contribution is for CENSE and SCA will continue to provide Community Events and Outreach/Pride. Gary Albert moved to accept the 2022 budget as proposed, Kristen Iversen seconded the motion, a vote was taken, and the 2022 Budget unanimously approved.

LANDSCAPING: Gary Albert (Landscaping Chairman) stated that the landscaping and the areas that SCA is responsible for were normal last year. Mulch had been applied to SCA areas, which occurs biennially and also includes the area on 143rd near Somerset Elementary School. Our landscape contract (with Dawn 'till Dusk) has been renewed for another year. Also, the fountain at the entrance has been soaped twice this year and in 2020 it occurred three times; each requiring draining/replacing 1000 gallons of water and cleaning/pressure washing. We might consider shutting down the fountain and make it into a planter. Lastly, the Forest Hill Entrance has been relandscaped by the COB Parks Department. This area was originally developed in the 1970's. Tom Kuykendall (COB Staff) helped us obtain funding to complete the area. It looks good and it now has an Irrigation System, and more plants will be installed in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS: Johannes Grad (Website/Social Media/Communications Chair) provided a report regarding the July 4th Parade & Picnic. He stated that on behalf of his committee, it was a fantastic event. They had a parade that started at SRC and then proceeded to Foresthill Park. The Fire Department attended and used water hoses to spray the areas/games. In addition, SCA provided other games, tattoos, and food. He wanted to again thank all of the volunteers!

COMMUNITY EVENTS - MUSIC TALENT EVENT & GAME NIGHTS: Yiyi Guo (Community Events Chair) stated that she is a new Board member and is also new to the neighborhood. So, she wanted to try to have community events for all of us. She provided two types of events last year. The first was a Virtual Concert that occurred in May 2021. Twenty-five people attended and there were six performers who played a cello, piano, and/or violins. It was prerecorded and SCA gave them a sign as a gift. Regarding Game Nights, three events were held where participants played Trivia/Pictionary. In the future, she hopes to do it again and requested that neighbors reach out to her and discuss how to be involved in making this happen this year.

CRC REPORT: Diane Fern (CRC Chair) stated that she has three committee members (Kristen Iversen, Charlie Bofferding, and Chloe Chin) and the committee meets monthly to discuss current cases. They review reports/concerns, review the proposed plan(s), visit properties, and determine the next steps. In 2021, there were sixty-two applications for CRC review. The most common included 12 tree/view issues, 8 house paint colors, and 5 deck modifications. The remainder had to do with fences, antenna, RV's, trash cans, etc. She stated that the committee hopes to improve response time and is working on recording their procedures for future actions. The Committee needs another volunteer since Sean Cox has finished his tenure on the CRC. She thanked him for his efforts; he will be sorely missed.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT: Pete Mansfield (Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair) stated that his role is to stay aware of health, safety issues, and help our neighbors prepare for emergency events. During 2021, he mentioned that there had been an array of criminal activities in the area. Most of these were activities that needed to be addressed by COB police. So, it is important to call 911 or connect via the website and if it is not an emergency, contact and state that it is a nonemergency event, and they redirect you to the Nonemergency Dept. Also, Alice McKinney is the new COB Captain, and she will speak later in the meeting. He also mentioned that there has been a recent Block Group and Community Engagement Meeting. He would like to encourage Somerset residents to schedule one in their neighborhood/block. Lastly, he is currently the only committee person and would like others to volunteer this year.

GUEST SPEAKERS: There next were presentations from the following Guest Speakers:

Carl Lunak - City of Bellevue Office of Emergency Management- Carl Lunak (participated via Zoom) introduced himself and stated that he is a local and has worked previously for the City of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park. In addition, he stated that he wants to help our community to be prepared, improve it, and be vibrant. He was pleased that our community helped with the recent landslide and reached out to the neighbors and others in the area. He also stated that they have a HAM Radio System that can be utilized during a major event. In addition, there are other COB training events that we can attend that could help and prepare for any future issues. For example, to be prepared in case of an Emergency, you need to prepare a GO Bag which should also include a Family Plan regarding resources and contact information. We hope that this event helps you plan, improve our situation, and be prepared for any future events. In conclusion, the COB wants to support us for what may happen in the future by providing ever present support, training, education, and key documents/materials/etc. that will help us bolster our efforts. Francis thanked Carl for his support of our community.

Don Marsh – CENSE President and Co-Founder- Don Marsh is a SCA resident (participated via Zoom) and has helped the community oppose the PSE Energize Eastside project for over 7 years. He provided a Power Point presentation that showed how PSE will upgrade the system across four cities, utilize power poles that will be twenty feet taller and made of metal. He pointed out safety issues such as the Olympic Pipeline that is located in the corridor, removal of hundreds of trees, view impacts, and decreased property values. Currently, the Cities of Renton and Bellevue have approved the project. However, the City of Newcastle has not yet approved it. He asked other Somerset residents to speak at their upcoming meeting later in the month.

Don also noted that there is no need for this project in the winter and it is uncertain if it is needed in the summer. Newcastle has rejected the PSE Safety Plan. In addition, PSE's Eastside Customer Demand Forecast is false and was prepared by PSE. The biggest safety issues of this project are due to the location of the poles in the easement. Newcastle also has two pipelines in their corridor, and they will take PSE to court due to PSE use of the corridor and pole/pipeline issues. For more information, please check out their website: CENSE.org/NEWCASTLE. Don thanked everyone for listening and Francis thanked him for his efforts.

Michael Ketchum - Somerset Recreation Club (SRC) President- Michael provided a report on the Club's current or proposed facility updates. The Pool's slide has been approved by an engineer and will be completed this year. The tennis/pickle ball courts are being redone and new lights will be installed. The old COB water retention vault will start to be removed in February. The City will also stabilize the hill, since it is not seismically safe. Also, PSE staff have met with Michael/others to identify where the two new poles will be sited. PSE wants to use the tennis courts this year to store equipment, etc., and SRC does not want that to occur. Lastly, the Polar Plunge was well done during the major snow event and the pool was 86 degrees. SRC has renters during the off season, and they have a number of coaches and are improving the facilities. Francis thanked Michael for his report and the COB/PSE update

Melissa Richardson - Bellevue School District/Bellevue Quality Schools - Melissa Richardson provided information regarding the upcoming levies (participated via Zoom). Signs have been posted throughout the area for the two levies - one is for Education/Operation and the other is for Capital/Technology. These levies will make up 20% of the general fund and they "make Bellevue

Bellevue”. Currently, \$3.09/\$1000 of everyone’s property value goes to the state, but the Bellevue School District (BSD) does not get as much money back from the state as is paid by Bellevue taxpayers. The first Levy will aid in running schools on a day-to-day basis. It also allows the district to offer seven periods a day in the higher grades. It funds after-school tutorial and AP classes. At elementary schools, the levy supports music, art programs, student well-being, healthcare (BSD has 24 nurses while the state only funds four), more counselors, and psychologists. Regarding Special Education, the state under funds it by \$20M, but the levies will help to fund that too. In summary, the levy will meet the needs and desires of our community as a whole.

The second levy is a Capital and Technology levy, which is limited to what they are able to provide, such as tablets, laptops, learning software, digital systems, and classroom technology. BSD also provides students with laptops during 3rd, 6th and 9th grades. Due to COVID, the District needs to replenish them. They will also use the funds to maintain buildings, provide high level air ventilation, painting, roofs, and updating the facilities for safety. Since 2014, the tax rates have dropped in the community and the commercial/industrial area provide greater tax revenue for the private sector. Francis thanked Melissa for the detailed overview on the Bellevue School District levies.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022: Charlie Bofferding said he expects to be the new SCA President and wanted to focus on 2022. He mentioned that “Neighbors helping Neighbors” is the core of who we are in this community, which is a beautiful, desirable, and diverse neighborhood with a fantastic view. People make the community work, and we need to follow our passions to help make “Good Happen, Reconnect, and Energize the Community”. We also help people prepare to save themselves through our Emergency Preparedness Committee. Pete is the Committee Chair, and he is helping people prepare to help themselves in times of need – evident in recent events. In addition, Johannes Grad helped to make the 4th of July event happen with Board Members and volunteers, even during the current COVID pandemic. Yiyi also provided us with something new with a virtual concert and game nights. Gary Albert has helped SCA to deal with landscaping issues and also, due to his extensive experience, helped us facilitate and resolve an array of SCA problems and needs. Charlie then stated that our key 2022 action steps are to “RECONNECT with our community within each neighborhood and get to know us better, as well as identify how to make this happen and ENERGIZE our community” Francis will also be working on this; and he plans to restart the Somerset PRIDE Committee and work with Pete to increase Block Groups. Working together we will emerge from COVID renewed, focused, and making good things happen. Francis thanked Charlie for his presentation and taking on his new role as President.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS, OTHER BUSINESS, and SUMMARY:

The meeting was then opened to questions of the SCA Board Members and guests. Issues addressed included the following:

1. Don Marsh was asked if the powerlines could be placed underground? Don stated that it is a great idea, but the answer is “no”, since the current corridor has the Olympic Pipeline located in it and PSE would need a different route.
2. Kip Fern (SRC Board member) was asked if PSE will be removing vegetation around SRC. He stated that they will remove vegetation, but SRC is uncertain about when and how much will be removed.

3. Don was also asked about trees being removed. He stated that this is a major concern and one of many problems related to the PSE upcoming vegetation removal process through Somerset and other locations/PSE potential next steps in the future.

Francis concluded by thanking everyone for attending in person and/or via ZOOM, the Board, and Johannes for orchestrating the Zoom call and for making this happen.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Sander
Secretary

The next portion of the meeting with City of Bellevue Staff proceeded right after the meeting concluded. The City Staff provided information regarding current issues and support for SCA in the last several years. In addition, they also addressed the recent landslide issues affecting the Surdi's Home and the homes that are located in the 139th Place SE area.

The following is a list of City of Bellevue Staff that attended the meeting:

Nathan McCommon, Deputy City Manager
Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Services Manager
Gregg Schrader, Building Official
Alycia McKinney, Somerset Sector Captain
Linda DeBoldt, Utilities Assistant Director, Engineering