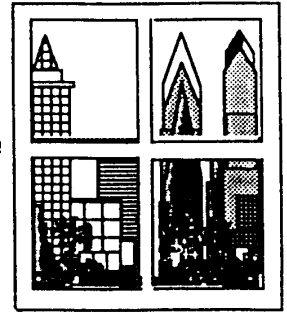


South of South Neighborhood Association
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S O S N A

**South of South Neighborhood Association, Inc. (SOSNA)
and SOSNA NAC
Minutes of a General Meeting (DRAFT)
Wednesday, December 8, 2004, 7:30 p.m.
Marian Anderson Recreation Center
17th Street between Fitzwater and Catharine Streets**

Chairperson Laura Blanchard called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes. Blanchard noted that the minutes for both the October and November meetings were not circulated, and promised that the minutes for October, November, and December would be available at the January 12 general meeting.

Gift of Life Foundation. Lara Moretti of the Gift of Life Foundation outlined the importance of organ donors in saving the lives of many critically ill patients. The Gift of Life Foundation had assisted in arranging 81,000 organ donations nationwide, with some 1,000 area residents this year receiving organ transplants. The need to increase organ transplant awareness is particularly acute in the African-American community. She then introduced two community residents whose lives have been affected the organ transplants.

Gill Murrell, mother of Shafeeq Murrell, spoke of the pain of losing a child to violence. Her son Shafeeq had been a summer intern at SOSNA and was an innocent bystander gunned down in 1996. She draws comfort from knowing that through the gift of his heart, liver, and kidneys other lives have been saved and a part of him lives on.

Wanda McCain, an area resident with lupus, received a kidney transplant three years ago. Lupus is particularly prevalent in the African-American community and the need is acute. Her transplant has failed and she is currently on dialysis awaiting a new donor. She reminded attendees that some organ donations can be made by the living. A kidney is one example -- both donor and recipient can survive and lead healthy lives with one functioning kidney. A liver transplant is another; the liver, unlike other organs, can regenerate itself. A donor can give a part of the liver, which will then regenerate in the recipient's body. Currently, there are some 900-plus patients awaiting liver transplants in our area.

Other Community Announcements. Jamer Hunt of the University of the Arts introduced his students' design projects for the South Street Corridor -- projects designed to create significant improvement in the streetscape through lighting, facade improvements, landscaping, or public art at relatively low cost. Attendees were given colored stickers and encouraged to engage the design teams in conversation and then to "vote" for the poster presentations they felt were most exciting. A representative from the Hotel Brotherhood in the 1500 block of Bainbridge

Street invited attendees to an open house December 23, at 7:00 p.m. The Hotel Brotherhood is the neighborhood's oldest surviving social club, established in 1884.

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at the St. Anthony Senior Center, 2309 Carpenter Street, 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Cheer. The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:30 so that attendees could partake of refreshments donated by Dunkin' Donuts, in the 1600 block of Washington Avenue while socializing with fellow members and visiting the displays of the Gift of Life Foundation and the University of the Arts.

Respectfully submitted,
Soledad Perez Gillespie
Recording Secretary