

# South Ambergris Caye Neighborhood Watch



**CALL 610-4911**



*Safest Neighborhood in Belize*



**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 7:00pm**  
**Someplace South CafeBar**

## **SACNW Meeting Minutes**

July 10, 2024

Someplace South CafeBar

Present:

EC - Al Domescik, Martin Reiser, Karyn Larko, Mary Shaw, Kate Corrigan and Dawn Domescik

Members and Guests – 28

**President's Welcome:** Al Domescik opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. thanking everyone for attending. Al thanked Kristen, the owner of Someplace South, and staff for hosting the meeting. He then gave a brief overview of the organization for the guests that were at Someplace South and advised that questions are welcome at any time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Mary.

Mary told the membership that in May we collected approximately \$20,000 and spent approximately \$10,000. July will be a big month of expenses as we had Patrol Officer Coc resign who is entitled to 20 weeks of severance and vacation pay. Severance was \$8,550 and vacation pay was \$818.10.

We will also have \$2,500 in company expenses to get the SACNW corporation in good standing and to be properly filed.

**SACNW Inc**  
**Statement of Activity by Month**  
 January - June, 2024

	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Total
<b>Revenue</b>							
<b>Donations</b>							
Cash Contributions	14,650.00	5,800.00	19,495.00	6,550.00	12,000.00	13,925.00	72,420.00
Fundraiser		1,802.00		1,416.00	1,350.00	2,290.00	6,858.00
Merchandise Sales				10.00			10.00
PayPal Online	3,400.00		2,040.00	200.00			5,640.00
Square Online	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	300.00	550.00	3,050.00
Venmo Online	350.00	100.00	150.00			150.00	750.00
Wix Online	2,650.00	2,070.00	4,120.00	2,370.00	2,370.00	3,670.00	17,250.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$ 21,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,322.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,355.00</b>	<b>11,096.00</b>	<b>16,020.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,585.00</b>	<b>105,978.00</b>
Fundraiser - Concert 2024	19,356.00	10,149.00					29,505.00
<b>Other Types of Income</b>							
Miscellaneous Revenue	90.00						90.00
<b>Total Other Types of Income</b>	<b>\$ 90.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>90.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 41,046.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,471.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,355.00</b>	<b>11,096.00</b>	<b>16,020.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,585.00</b>	<b>135,573.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>							
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Banking	5.75	13.75	14.75	11.75	30.10	22.75	98.85
EDC bank charges	30.00						30.00
PayPal Transaction Charges	121.60		74.14	7.96			203.70
Square Transaction Charges	19.96	19.96	19.96	19.96	11.10	19.96	110.90
Venmo Transaction Charges	7.04	2.10	3.04			3.04	15.22
Wix Transaction Charges	88.04	68.46	139.92	78.36	78.36	118.06	571.20
<b>Total Banking</b>	<b>\$ 272.39</b>	<b>\$ 104.27</b>	<b>\$ 251.81</b>	<b>118.03</b>	<b>119.56</b>	<b>\$ 163.81</b>	<b>1,029.87</b>
General Supplies for Station	10.00	30.00	198.00	89.00	200.00	200.00	727.00
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,923.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,830.00</b>	<b>7,370.00</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,315.00</b>	<b>50,488.00</b>

<b>Payroll Social Security Expense</b>	1,040.00	1,172.00	704.00	768.00	912.00	704.00	5,300.00
<b>Quickbook Subscription</b>	63.96	63.96	63.96	63.96	63.96	63.96	383.76
<b>Transportation Expenses</b>							
<b>Fuel</b>		501.00	606.00	586.01	659.00	932.79	3,284.80
<b>Golf Cart</b>		375.00	400.00	2,332.82	1,250.00	630.00	4,987.82
				\$	\$		\$
<b>Total Transportation Expenses</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 876.00	\$ 1,006.00	2,918.83	1,909.00	\$ 1,562.79	8,272.62
<b>Wix Yearly Fee</b>				155.88			155.88
				\$	\$		\$
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ 12,309.35	\$ 9,796.23	\$ 12,053.77	11,483.70	10,704.52	\$ 10,009.56	66,357.13
				-\$	\$		\$
<b>Net Revenue</b>	\$28,736.65	\$10,674.77	\$14,301.23	387.70	5,315.48	\$10,575.44	69,215.87

Please remember that SACNW operates solely on member contributions! All contributions are used for Patrol Salaries and expenses needed to operate i.e., Golf Cart repairs, Fuel, Bank Fees etc. All administrative costs are volunteer and donations!

**Note:** Social Security is paid based on the prior month's salaries.

**Security Report:** Presented by Patrol Officer Dominguez.

Patrolman Dominguez reminded us that all persons are required to have a valid driver's license if driving a golf cart or any vehicle in Belize.

He also stated that golf carts are not toys and are on the roads with other vehicles and pedestrians.

Police Officer Gabourel confirmed that legal age for drivers in Belize is 18. If a person has a drivers license from out of the country that allows them to drive under the age of 18, they are not legal in the country of Belize. There may be some leeway if a driver is stopped at the age of 16 or 17 with a valid license, but this is still not legal in Belize.

Report:

- June 17: At 9:55 a.m., Patrol and Police detained a male person for harassment. Police escorted the person to the police station to be charged.

-June 19: At 9:59 p.m., Patrol and Police received information that a person was trying to commit suicide. Person was taken to the Polyclinic for minor injuries and later escorted to the police station.

- During this period, 29 people were searched.

**San Pedro Police update:** Presented by Officer Gabourel

Officer Gabourel mentioned that there are two large events on the Island this coming weekend, the annual Lobster Fest and Grand Caribe's fishing Tournament.

Due to the increase in the number of people on the Island Officer Gabourel reminded us to be cautious and aware of our surroundings.

- Lock doors, windows and golf carts

- Most crime is crime of opportunity

Don't drink and drive

**Patrolmen Update:** Presented by Dawn.

Dawn mentioned that the EC is in the process of getting new uniforms and raingear for the Patrolmen and the EC is in the process of getting pricing for both.

Dawn also reminded everyone that the patrol enjoy when the members stop by the patrol house with snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. This is a nice way to introduce yourself to the guys too.

**Bylaws:** Presented by Karyn.

Karyn informed the members that the Executive Committee (EC) believes establishing Bylaws that meet SACNW's current needs is another important step in ensuring the ongoing success of the organization.

Bylaws are important because they provide the framework for the management and operation of the corporation. For example, Bylaws identify who the corporation's members are and their rights. Bylaws also set forth when and how EC members are elected, the qualifications to serve on the EC, EC terms, the limitations on power of EC members, and how EC members can be removed from office.

Without Bylaws, there are no guidelines for ECs to follow. Without Bylaws, there are no controls in place to prevent ECs from acting in a capricious or over-reaching manner. For these reasons, many U.S. states mandate corporations have bylaws and those that don't, strongly recommend it. Likewise, Belize law strongly recommends corporations have bylaws.

As a first step to establishing official Bylaws for SACNW, the EC has reviewed the Bylaws previously written. The EC is now in the process of drafting additions and revisions to this document to create a document it deems appropriate for SACNW in 2024 and going forward. Once this process has been completed, a final draft will be published and SACNW members will be given an opportunity to provide their feedback before the document is finalized and submitted to the members for approval.

The EC hopes to publish the draft Bylaws by July 20th and will send through email to members to review so that we can bring to a vote at the August meeting.

**Vote to change board elections to May with board turnover in June and current board staying on through May 2025.** Presented by Al.

It was suggested that we move the annual board member elections to the May general member meeting. By moving the election to May, we could then have a joint turnover meeting in June between the new board and the outgoing board. This June turnover, as opposed to an October turnover, allows the new board to get their feet wet and learn their roles during the slow season when things aren't quite as hectic.

It also gives the new board time, as a group, to begin the fundraising conversation. Rather than a new board convening in October and stepping in in the middle of the fundraising campaign, they can convene in June and begin the fundraising campaign then.

And in May we have more members on the Island to represent a solid vote and larger voter turnout.

Dawn made a motion to vote, and Judy Anne seconded.

The vote was unanimous to change Board elections to May.

During this same portion of the meeting, Al mentioned that notwithstanding the vote, several of the current EC members would likely be stepping down in September. He encouraged meeting attendees to consider serving on the EC and asked those willing to serve on the EC or willing to volunteer in other capacities to let him know.

## **Miscellaneous:**

### **Keep an eye out for new Emails:**

#### -Membership Newsletter:

-The EC sent out a newsletter on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. They plan on sending out a quarterly newsletter to keep the members informed of the goings in on with the EC and members.

If you did not receive the newsletter, please contact Dawn at [DawninBelize@gmail.com](mailto:DawninBelize@gmail.com) and she will add you to the SACNW member contact list and will send you a copy of the email.

-The website will also have a tab for the newsletters.

#### -Presidents monthly email:

- This email will be sent on the Monday or Tuesday before the Monthly member meeting.

-The President will remind the members of the meeting and what to expect at the Membership meeting, for example, anything we need to vote on, fundraising events, and updates for our neighborhood.

-Al thanked Kate for getting the Corporation docs in order and for meeting with Attorney Estevan Perera & Company LLP. Estevan Perera has offered to handle the required annual filings going forward pro bono. In other words, SACNW will only be charged the filing fees, not for the firm's time. At this time, the fees will be approximately \$2,500.

## **Items Needed for Patrol:**

Toilet paper, **mosquito repellent**, first aid supplies, broom, cleaning supplies, paper towels, coffee (instant preferred), sugar, creamer, trash bags (big and small).

## **Questions:**

One of our members asked about grading the road. Al said he would reach out to the town board to see when they could get out. He also stated that it depends on the weather on how timely they are.

**In Closing:**

President Al Domescik expressed his thanks to all attendees. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

-Next meeting is Wednesday, August 14th

**DONATION INFORMATION:**

**Donations via Venmo:** The Venmo QR Code can be found on the SACNW website and on Sand Filled Bottles with SACNW information labels placed in various bars in San Pedro.

**Credit Card donations** are accepted at Black Orchid and SomePlace South.

**Cash or Check Donations** can be dropped off at the Barrier Reef Drive office of Ambergris Seaside Realty, addressed to Josh Buettner, or given to Mary Shaw.

**Time and Talent** – Community member involvement is always welcomed.

**Contact Information:**

Please email any questions, comments, or suggestions to [info@sacnw.org](mailto:info@sacnw.org)

Facebook: [SACNW Facebook Page](#)

Web Page: [SACNW Website](#)

**SACNW Mission Statement**

To deter crime, promote community spirit, and create an environment that encourages awareness and continual improvement within our area.