

Final Meeting Minutes – WSNA – 2018-12-17

Jim Allhiser called the meeting to order at 7PM. 10 members signed the roster, but more bodies were present. EM Easterly moves to approve minutes as amended (changed word “arborist” to “forester”) – second by Micki Varney. Vote unanimous approval.

Reports:

Salem Police – Pat McDermott

Tony Fultz is off today. Open for questions –

How far into the park past the softball fields do you patrol?

It’s sort-of seasonal, but with the “razor” units (UTVs) we can go pretty much anywhere rapidly. We are well aware of the massive encampment near the Riverbend quarry, and will go out there if we need to.

Citizen question - 1137 7th ST seems to be a “problem.”

Feel free to contact the non-emergency dispatch to report the specific issues you observe. Also, in January, there is a problem oriented policing team being formed. Our job will be to “Take on” the problem houses or problem areas in the community in partnerships (2 officer teams). Our goal will be to address problems, not necessarily arrest everyone, but to contact the people that need contacted (Banks, lenders, landlords, etc) to get problems addressed.

Question about parked vehicle, not on road, but directly adjacent to it.

Call Compliance to come check it out.

City Councilors Cara Kaser & Jim Lewis – At council work session.

Land Use – Wes Hill – None.

Traffic & Infrastructure – Nick Fortey – Nov 26th – Report on city council meeting where Councilor Lewis presented his motion. Work session yet to be scheduled in January.

Difference Makers – Craig Evans – None.

Disaster Preparedness – Mike Evans - None.

WSBA – None.

Transit – None.

Parks – Micki Varney –

Report from SPRAB – Capital improvement fund projects are moving forward. Renovation of tennis courts at Orchard Heights Park along with replacement of the bleachers. Recreation dept. looking at developing some activities available for school break times. Luke Gmazel showed the landscaping plan for the new police station, and discussion ensued. Questions about removing trees and putting in street angled parking.

Comment/Question/Background from Nick F. – property at intersection of Kingwood and Eola. Idea that if and when the city ends up claiming property for various improvements if there is a facility or an avenue for having a discussion about using the unneeded pieces as a park or other community use. Something like a first right of refusal about what to use the space for.

Edgewater – Steve Anderson - Partnering with the Dream Center again for the Sneaky Elf project. December 25th – 3:30AM. Hang cookies on the doorknobs of all the doors in the Edgewater neighborhood.

New stickers for the Edgewater partnership

Resources handout available on table, or from Steve.

Working for future "Bike Rodeo" with Bike Club and Harritt Elementary school.

More walking cruises coming up. We also like to do town halls when there is a topic worth discussing. The farmers market will be coming back, on Thursdays, in May to September.

Watershed – E.M. Easterly

Did not meet this month in December but has a long agenda for January. A meeting did occur today at OWEB, but it is a work in progress.

Chair Announcement – Jim Allhiser

CERT introduction from Greg Walsh, City of Salem Emergency Manager - upcoming, it will probably be a separate meeting rather than a presentation at the WSNA. Keep your eyes out.

Old Business –

New Business –

Troy Brynelson from Salem Reporter – new reporter. My goal for coming to meetings is to tell you a bit about who we are, but also to hear from you all what the community is interested in.

4th year as a professional journalist, University of Oregon grad. Most recent 2 years at Vancouver Columbian, covering business. I got an opportunity to come work with Les Zaitz and start something new. Covering local government and business. So far, my goal has been to attend as many meetings as possible and sit down with coffee, with as many people as possible.

Past questions about Salem Reporter's ownership structure. Larry Tokarski and Les Zaitz are co-founders. This was made known to us when we applied for the job. I asked whether Larry would be involved in the day to day, and the answer was that no, he would not, not at all. I've met Larry only once, and that is true, that there is a hard separation between marketing/finance and the newsroom.

Where are you located and how do I obtain your paper?

Just south of the entrance to Minto Brown park, in a small office in a shared office building. We only have a website – salemreporter.com, no printed paper.

Investigative reporter versus reporting the news/events as they happen?

That's exactly what I'm learning to do and trying to become with Les as a mentor. We're working to strike that balance between current events reporting and the investigative reporting. The hope is to do a lot.

What area are you most interested in investigating?

What most interests me right now is taxpayer dollars being misspent. I've also covered environmental issues regarding forestry issues and a pipeline issue.

Comment regarding solid waste – I plan on keeping up on that.

Comment about website – doing a great job and I appreciate it.

Meeting ended at 7:51PM

Respectfully submitted – Chris Wilhelm – WSNA Secretary