

**Northeast Neighbors (NEN) Minutes of  
Board Meeting, February 8, 2022**

**Board members present:** Chair Lynn Takata, vice-chair Ken Simila, secretary Delana Beaton, Joan Lloyd, Jenna Otto, Leslie Polson,

Erin Grimm, Ken Houghton, Cindy Kimball, Jacqueline Schindele

**Eleven guests** also attended.

Meeting called to order by chair **Lynn Takata** at 6:35.

**Ken Houghton** moved the approval of the minutes for February 8, 2022 as presented. **Cindy Kimball** seconded. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Sgt. Vince Dawson** of the Salem Police Department spoke briefly and responded to questions.

**City Councilor Virginia Stapleton** gave information from City Council.

She announced that on February 14 the Council will consider both the city's **Climate Action Plan** and the **Twenty is Plenty** plan for slowing traffic through residential areas.

She announced the **Navigation Center** to serve the unhoused people in Salem is scheduled to open in September 2022. She mentioned that **Marion County** has pledged the million dollars toward the Navigation Center.

**Ken Houghton** asked Counselor Stapleton about accountability and transparency regarding the very large amounts of public money spent on sheltering some homeless. What is the verification of exit data re outcomes for people sheltered by Church at the Park projects?

**Lynn Takata** mentioned concern re money spent on the two months of shelter offered at the Pavilion on the State Fairgrounds, and other short term temporary shelter.

**Rob Romanek**, city parks planner, commented about Phase 2 of development of **Geer Park**. He mentioned a 20,000 square foot skate park will be included. Mr. Romanek can be reached at 503-588-6211.

He mentioned that one goal is a public sidewalk from Center Street to Geer Park for safe pedestrian access.

**Evan Sekulic** of **Neighborly Ventures** at Jory Apartments spoke about progress in that development. He mentioned that one factor slowing progress toward opening is getting all new appliances for the units. He announced they will operate with their own in-house property managers. To learn about how to be considered to rent a unit, contact **Annie** by her email at [Annie@thejoryapts.com](mailto:Annie@thejoryapts.com).

Evan Sekulic also mentioned topics for future visits with NEN could include the low income housing within the apartment complex, planning for an open house and tour of the new development, and the possibility of holding a community meeting at the rec building.

**Ken Simila** asked about the possibility of rain gardens and planning for water overflow areas.

**ACTION ITEM:** **Laura Buhl** has requested a short term leave of absence from the NEN board. Leslie Polson moves to approve this request. Cindy Kimball seconds. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

It was announced that workdays in **Englewood Park** will be held February 26 and March 26. All are welcome to help. For more information, contact **Lynn Takata**.

**Ken Simila** mentioned a goal of connecting segments of bike paths. Councilwoman Virginia Stapleton commented on areas where these connections are very close. This is an ongoing goal.

Meeting was **adjourned** at 7:50 PM. Next NEN meeting will be held at 6:30 on Zoom on Tuesday March 8, 2022.

**All are welcome.**