

Northeast Neighbors (NEN)  
Minutes of Board Meeting, January 11, 2022

Meeting of the Board of NEN **convened** at 6:32 by Chair, **Lynn Takata** by Zoom

**Board members present** Lynn Takata, Ken Simila, Jeremy Mills, Delana Beaton, Cindy Kimball,

Joan Lloyd, Nick Cantonwine, Ken Houghton, Jacqueline Schindele, Jenna Otto, Leslie Polson

**Sixteen guests** also present.

**Minutes of December 14, 2021 unanimously approved** as amended, by voice vote. Moved by **Ken Simila**, Second by **Cindy Kimball**. Jacqueline and Jenna abstained due to not having attended meeting in December.

City Councilor **Virginia Stapleton** gave information from the Council. She announced she plans to enter two motions: one to gain approval/endorsement for a citywide **art project** of beautification for murals painted on paving at neighborhood intersections.

The second proposal will be asking for approval of the **"20 is Plenty"** plan to lower traffic speed in residential areas to 20 mph.

**Councilor Stapleton** announced that Council will soon vote on a **new city Tree Ordinance** which will detail which trees can be protected and which can be saved. Root zone soil compaction by heavy equipment is one issue which will be addressed.

**Courtney Knox Busch**, is city staff and now supervisor of Irma Dowd who works with neighborhood organizations. She presented information about a municipal bond to potentially raise up to \$300 million over ten years. Of these monies, it is anticipated \$150 million would be devoted to **streets, sidewalks, and bridges**. \$26 million would be earmarked for replacement of aging **fire trucks**. **Ken Simila** asked about plans for **bike ways** in this, as the provisions in the 2008 bond measure wind down.

**Jacqueline Schindele** spoke strongly in support of extensive **sidewalk repair/replacement** due to significant safety hazards. **Jenna Otto** spoke in favor of **streetlights being shielded** to direct light down and not up **to contribute more to general light pollution**.

**Cindy Kimball** asked what the **process will be for prioritizing** projects to be funded by the bond.

**Nick Cantonwine** reminds us that current federal investments are for new construction only.

**Lynelle Wilcox**, co-director of safe Sleep, spoke in favor of prioritizing **housing for the homeless**.

**Julie Warnecke, senior transportation planner** with the city, gave a summary of current goals and planning. Both Julie Warnecke and Courtney Knox Busch mentioned that they could be contacted directly with questions and comments.

**Lynn Takata** announced that Monday, January 17 there will be a planting **work day in Englewood Park** with a goal of planting 300 new plants. This work is to repair some of the damage done in the park by heavy equipment during the cleanup after the ice storm. Help is appreciated.

**Lynelle Wilcox** announced that the **Salem Human Rights Commission** may make the homeless a protected class of citizens.

**Gretchen Bennett** of city of Salem spoke about plans for new micro shelter sites for those without shelter. She mentioned difficulties in locating feasible sites. She mentioned sites being considered at City Hall-Peace Plaza, Front Street and Hood, and space on Center NE across from Safeway.

**Jacqueline Schindele** spoke about concerns for impacts on Safeway and their customers, if the Center Street site next to train tracks is chosen..

**Jenna** asked if micro house camps will be fenced and monitored. She also asked if pets will be permitted. Answer: Yes, pets will be allowed. Question: What will be toilet arrangement? Answer: portapotties.

**Ken Houghton** spoke favorably about micro shelters housing elderly, handicapped, and others particularly vulnerable unsheltered. He advocated for those being the target population to live across street from Safeway.

**Lynn Takata** asked if NEN could be given a contact number we could use to contact a staff person if a need arises.

**Nick Cantonwine** asks about the geographic distribution of micro shelter villages. Currently they are in NEN, and the Center Street across from Safeway site is also in NEN. Is there a goal of geographic distribution throughout other wards of the city?

**Paul Wilson** is a member of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. Paul gave an update on their efforts to create a housing option for homeless single women. Their active housing committee is Habitat and Hope Village ( HHV). He mentioned some setbacks they have experienced and what they are working on currently. Their current goal is to provide portable laundry and shower facilities that could deliver services throughout a large area.

**Cindy Kimball** asked if we could file a request for an Environmental Impact Study for the proposed casino site in north Salem. It was agreed this issue will be addressed and processed through email.

**Lynn Takata** announced there will be **a tour** of the **Jory Park Community Center** before they plan to open the first building.

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:20. Next scheduled meeting of NEN board is Tuesday, February 8, 2022 by Zoom.;