

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association Minutes - April 7, 2022

Present: Sue Fowler, Pastor Terry Motte, Chris Hoy, Chuck Weston, Officer Mark Jantz, Mike and Delilia Sobieski, Norm Parks, Dan Sheets, Carolyn Hutton, Ryan Wreck, July Hoy, Mike Sim, Stacy Vieyra-Braedle, George Jones, Pat Mick, Broc Thorud, Via Zoom: Susann Kaltwasser and Clark Hazlet and Deanna _____.

Introductions/Approval of Minutes

Sue opened the meeting with introductions. Minutes for March 3, 2022 were read. Pastor Terry moved approval and Mike seconded the motion. All voted approval.

Police Officer Report Mark Jantz was present as Sgt Johnson was on personal family leave. He had a few things to share from the Police Chief regarding the Strategic Plan. The police is working on strategies for more community engagement. Clark Hazlitt reported suspicious behavior on Weathers Street near his house. Neighbors expressed concern about daytime gun fire in the neighborhood. Broc asked about how the police handle traffic stops if they find drug intoxication or drugs in the vehicle. Officer Jantz said it is different now with the new law that allows small amounts. So if they are driving with a small amount it is a ticket, for larger amounts they will be arrested. However, they are usually released and not taken to jail. They must appear in court. the focus is not on a breathalyzer, but on impairment which the officer must judge on sight. Body worn cameras were approved last year and the Police Dept is testing out 3 different brands.

City Councilor Report, Chris Hoy

City Council met recently selected Micki Varney to represent Ward 8 after the resignation of Jim Lewis. She will serve in that seat until December 31, 2022 until a new councilor is elected. Search for new city manager is underway, The City Librarian was hired.

While not in ELNA there is hopefully funding to help develop Brown Road Park through a grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant Program, so they are putting in an application. (That is how we got Weathers Street park developed.) The City is looking at creating a process separate from City funding for residents to buy speed bumps.

HB 4037 that he sponsored as State Representative passed. It was to use unused state land to site micro shelters. The Council approved allocation of \$475,000 from the State sheltering grant for a City-staffed team to respond to unmanaged sheltering locations, and for a grant to a nonprofit-managed program to operate through June 30, 2022, and have staff return with the necessary budget amendments on March 28, 2022. The City is continuing to clear PRs and tents from Cascades Gateway Park and Wallace Marine Park. Part of the problem is that they do not have a place to take towed vehicle, so it is taking longer than hoped.

The City is working on a proposal for a \$300 million bond measure. It would cover street improvements, help for the homeless, brach libraries, fire equipment and land for new fire stations, as well as for parks.

There was a question about Center Street improvements. We will also see some improvements by County on Lancaster and State Street this summer.

Clay Street Problems

Neighbors described many problems including camping on private property, vandalism and possible drug dealing. They have called in many reports with limited success. Officer Jantz reported that Code Enforcement had been working the case. It is important to give proper notice for vehicles and to allow people to leave the area voluntarily. It is hard to just tow vehicles due to the need for notice and also they have to have a place to take the vehicle that may be contaminated. Local tow companies often do not have a place to take them and too often they are just resold and return to the streets. Most are contaminated and hard to dismantle and property dispose. So, it takes a long time. But the City does plan on doing a sweep of the area later in the month. In the meantime it is helpful for people to report any immediate problems to 911 and other problems to the non-emergency or to the homeless hotline on line. Officer Jantz said that the Special Investigation Unit had seized 6000 fentanyl pills, cash and served several warrants at the apartments on Clay and Cypress.

Ward 6 Candidate, Stacy Vieyra-Braedle

Stacy talked about her background in health care and her work with helping families. She is very dedicated to getting more people engaged in their community and to work to make the area better.

Julie Hoy is also running for Ward 6 and she introduced herself. She is a local business owner and sees herself as helping to solve local problems.

Zoom meetings and purchase of License

We need to buy our own license and it costs \$149 a year. Mike Sim moved that ELNA buy a Zoom license. Susann seconded it and all moved approval. Susann will do the registration and then Sue and Pastor Motte would also have access. Pastor Motte said that he would like Sue to get trained on how to set up the TV system and get a key to the church so that if he is not able to do so, she can.

Committee Reports

Susann was not able to speak due to dental work, so Sue read her report.

a. Land Use

Hile apartments on Auburn Road will need to go through annexation hearing before the City later this month.

4929 Auburn Road a property owner of a single house on 0.3 acres is asking to be annexed. There are no significant issues and we should submit comments that we do not object.

4900 State Street apartments - After the Hearing Officer denied the application, they decided to appeal before the City Council. It is scheduled to be held on April 25. We will continue with our current position as the applicant has given no new information. To review our position is that we not object to the apartments, but we do not support the gas station at this time. We also recommend that the entrance be aligned with the cross street rather than its current easement that runs through the commercial area and has no sidewalks or clear paths. This is especially a problem with children needing to walk to Greencrest to catch the bus or walk to school. The entrance should be constructed like a normal street with curbs and sidewalks. Staff has said that the delineation between the commercial area and the apartments is not clear.

Our Salem - Nothing much has changed since my last update. They removed R-4 zones and reduced HUBs. We still have concerns about what can go into these HUBs and feel it needs to be more selective. That the idea is vague and not well researched as to offering neighborhood friendly businesses (not neighborhood friendly to have a gas station)

The area along Lancaster is going to be re-zoned as mixed use. That means a property could have both residential and commercial together. But since most of Lancaster is already developed there is not a clear picture of what this means, other than it opens up a wider area of 1/4 mile on each side. There are a few houses about a block off of Lancaster that could be replaced by apartments, but getting enough property to do anything large is unlikely. Just as an aside, Market Street was zoned as an overlay for parents from 25th to the railroad tracks back in 1992, but no one took advantage because of the lack of available land. We might see some duplexes or up to 6 units on a single lot.

Crosswalk on Sunnyview - staff is coming to the next meeting with a presentation on Sunnyview and Market Street by Swegle

Swegle School construction was approved. It can be appealed, but I see no issues because it is basically as we heard in February. Some minor landscaping conditions were added.

Willamette Town Center has received approval to their request on property lines. They have added a new building that will include two new restaurants but they will use the existing entrances on Center Street.

b. Traffic - Speed bumps on Weathers Street by Park are on the CIP list, but are for now unfunded.

c. Parks - **no report**

Annual Meeting date and topics

It was decided to have the annual meeting on the first Thursday of June, which is June 2. We did not decide on a topic but it was suggested to have the personal safety presentation by Sgt Johnson and homeless update by Chris Hoy that is more in-depth.

Communication Funds

We currently have about \$1300 in our fund, but we have several items that have not been claimed that total about \$200. Sue needs to pay for the ink and order more. So, Mike Sim moved 50.00 for ink that Sue has already paid for and cHUCK seconded it. It was approved by all.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Sue announced that two board members had resigned, Lynette Horton and Chesta Bauer. Both have moved from our area. She also said that our Vice president, Mary Sarabia had bypass surgery and was recovering.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Susann Kaltwasser