



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
February 17th, 2022 at Northgate Wesleyan Church Annex, Salem, OR

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Flora Morales, Community Outreach; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair

Board Members present: Becca Strieper; Jess Cruz; Mike Hoselton;

Absent with an excuse: Don Jensen, Land Use Chair, Ross Black, Pennie Morley; Timothy Beck; Pedro Mayoral;

Absent with belated excuse: Joann Barnhart

Present Guest Speakers: Mayor Chuck Bennett; Cynthia Berry (Cynthia replaced Laura Russo of ARCHES)

Present Speaker: Jose Gonzalez, Councilor

City of Salem staff present: Mark Becketl; Suzanne Reynolds; Nelson Morales; Irma Dowd; Officer Jason Conwell; Park Ranger Mike Zieker

Special guests: Jack and Kathy Conwell of Affordable Towing Inc.

1. Bayard started the meeting asking everyone to introduce themselves at around 6:05 p.m.
2. There was no quorum as only five board members were present, so we did **not vote approval of the minutes of January 20th**.
3. Mayor Chuck Bennett, City staff members along with Jack and Kathy Conwell all came to the front portion of the room.
Chuck Bennett spoke about how Jack Conwell helped the police and code enforcement officers. He helped with the large encampment located at Portland Road near Kale, a huge undertaking. He also cleared Claggett Creek Natural area using his own heavy equipment, all his tow trucks and many of his employees to tow more than 25 RVs and other vehicles, all for free of charge. Jack provided cars to Police for scenario-based training throughout the years. In normal circumstances, he would have retired earlier on but he enjoyed working with the police. He finally retired December 31st, 2021.
The mayor also mentioned Jack and Kathy were married 41 years ago at Northgate Wesleyan Church's sanctuary room where they were all standing.
The mayor then presented Jack with a special certificate co-signed by Mayor Bennett and NGNA Chair Bayard Mentrum.
Kaethe Mentrum informed the Minister of the church wanted so much to be present but could not. He wanted to show his appreciation to Jack for being there to tow his two muscle cars.
4. There were no questions and answers made with city staff as presentation of the award was the highlight.
5. Jose Gonzalez, our Councilor, said **we need to communicate very soon to the other City Councilors** because they think there are no trash issues cleaning after the homeless and why are we spending all this money on trash cleanup. He also mentioned he talked to someone in the city to streamline the system. This streamlining also goes to getting the street bumps for residential roads. There is too much red tape otherwise and things won't get done. Then he said he was in a car accident and was amazed at how

efficiently the fire and rescue came. When Bayard asked how he is feeling, he said his back still aches, but it could have been a lot worse.

6. Cynthia Berry said ARCHES recognizes the necessity of shelters during freezing weather conditions and offers the homeless in Salem a warming place as Navigation Center 1185 22nd SE, Salem First Presbyterian Church 770 Chemeketa St NE, South Salem Friends Church 1140 Baxter Rd SE and Seed of Faith Ministries 853 Medical Center Dr NE. She talked about a low barrier philosophy meaning an Emergency Shelter that does not require any of the following: a) criminal background checks b) credit checks or income verification c) program participation c) sobriety d) identification e) pets are welcome f) pods are available for storage. ARCHES also distinguishes trauma-informed care is an approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes their safety, trustworthiness, transparency, community support through collaboration and empowerment.

Cynthia got a few questions from Suzanne Reynolds and Nelson Morales and answered them to their satisfaction.

7. Executive Board Member Reports:

Since there was some time left, Kaethe, Park Chair made a report on a) Northgate Park – we are still waiting for the concreted bench to be installed near the playground.

On Fisher Park, after a couple of persistent phone calls, Kaethe was able to get the pot holes filled at the west side parking lot. She said right now she is going through trying to get resident petitions/surveys for basic amenities for the park.

8. Chair Bayard reported that for those who do not know yet, Bridgeway is planning to open Phase I of a 24/7 open center for the mental health and addiction outpatient treatment with 25 clinicians at 750 Front St this Spring. After a few years, Phase II will be relocation of their Detox Clinic and their Primary Care Clinic to 854 Front which will be joined to their Outpatient Clinic.

9. Bayard asked if there are any neighborhood concerns. After no answer, Bayard said this meeting is closed and Kaethe seconded it.

The meeting adjourned around 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 17th at 6 p.m.

Note, on-line voting:

Letter to City Councilors dated 2/25/2022, requesting to not defund removing of homeless and trash.