



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

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Don Jensen, Land Use Chair; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

Board Members present: Becca Strieper; Jess Cruz; Mike Hoselton; Pennie Morley; Marlayne Madison

Absent with an excuse: Jose Gonzalez, Councilor

Board Member absent with excuse: Joann Barnhart; Flora Morales, Community Outreach; Pedro Mayoral (Timothy Beck was overloaded with work and completely forgot to email me until later).

City Speakers Present: Sgt. Jake Pratt; Code Officers Nelson Morales & Chris Russell

Present Guest Speakers: Delores Pigsley, Siletz Indian Chair; McRae Carmichael and Emily Loberg, Safe Routes to School

Other guests: Bud Lane, Vice Chair representing Siletz casino, Hannah Shooting Bear, Phyllis Abbott-Cavota

1. Don was requested to start the meeting for attendees to introduce themselves at around 6:05 p.m. Due to tech issues with password, Kaethe had to be driven back home to get the password changed and zoom returned around 6:10 p.m.
2. Sgt. Pratt spoke about a killing at Northgate Park. He said the driver was chased from Market St. area to Northgate where he went right through the gate and finally stopped in the middle area and was shot. He also talked a bit about some gangster related killings at North Northgate. He talked about speeding at some residential areas. He spoke about a few other issues:
 - a) Homeless - There is now a city website for homeless/camping complaints. There is a lot of information available on the site and people can submit a complaint regarding a specific location. This will allow the city to direct the complaint to the proper location, whether it be Public Works, Code Enforcement, Police Dept etc. *
 - b) Strategic Plan & Transparency Portal** - The Salem PD strategic plan has been completed and is now available on the police website. There is a lot of excellent information in there about the direction the agency is heading. The Salem Police Transparency Portal also has a wealth of information, including crime stats, policies, employee feedback, press releases and the annual reports and the recent independent audits.
 - c) Transparency Portal***Finally, he shared information on the development of the body worn camera program. Three different vendors/models have been selected and they are now in the trial phase with a group of officers from various assignments evaluating camera system for approximately 4-6 weeks each. Once the trial phase is complete the department will review feedback and begin the purchase process and start outfitting the entire department. There is no firm date for the rollout of cameras department-wide, but he anticipates that

should be happening by mid-late summer. The department is also in the process of hiring the additional personnel to manage the administrative side of the program as it will be quite involved.

3. Nelson Morales spoke first about what he has done over the years for Northgate as a Code Compliance Officer. He received a special recognition and farewell parting gift of a desk plant from Northgate. He introduced his replacement, Chris Russell who also talked about what he has been doing lately including tagging illegally parked homeless RVs, other vehicles and cleaning out homeless encampments.
4. 1st Guest Speaker: Delores Pigsley, Siletz Tribe Chair for casinos. She talked about building about 80 affordable or low income housing for staff with first 20 priority made to Siletz Indians; working together with the police; their intention to build about five restaurants within the casino; to work with ODOT for traffic flow; taking care of homeless activities around the area; explained the acreage dimensions of Siletz Indian property in the area -all around River Church RV Park, Roadway Inn, flea market except land behind Harbor Freight and Roadway Inn; they will offer well paid jobs. Starting more than required \$15/hr., possibly starting \$17/hr.; childcare; swimming pool not as fancy as one in Vancouver; Events and other venues. Co-chair Bud Lane introduced himself and explained his position.
5. 2nd Guest Speaker: Emily Loberg (on zoom) discussed about the art contest with the theme of Human Powered Transportation open to K - 5th grade in Salem-Keizer school district, now ongoing with the deadline being April 6th 5 pm and what they will be doing with the artists in elementary schools. This is sponsored by Safe Routes, Cherriots, Learning for a Lifetime and ODOT. Kaethe added that New Harvest Church's after school hours program has students doing art work participation on Tues and Thurs evenings.
6. Don Jensen remarked there was not too much going on but he said the new codes for more density has been approved so there is more housing or building to come. Then Bayard said people can build three or more duplexes on the neighboring property and they don't have to tell you.
7. Kaethe, Park Chair made a report on a) Northgate Park – we are still waiting for the concreted bench to be installed near the playground. And we wanted one concreted picnic table also to be installed near the playground to be funded by Salem Parks Foundation. **Bayard called for a vote and Michael made a motion to vote, seconded by Marlayne. All approved.**
On Fisher Park, with the help of "Angel," Sub-Manager of the huge apartment complex at the east end of the park in getting about 98 petitions from the apartment residents, and Irma Dowd's help with the survey, Kaethe was able to get about 107 community people supporting improvements to be made to this park. With that attached, Kaethe made the application for the improvements with 4 picnic tables, over 4 feet wide soft trail to go around the park and dog mitt dispenser at the east end. The request was approved with a total of \$18,000 to be funded from Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF).
8. Chair Bayard brought up a few items to the table. He first started by bringing up March 1st being the 50th Anniversary for Northgate. He talked about Jose Gonzalez, our Councilor who got the street bumps matter approved by the City Council; Bayard talked about being torn between opening dialogue for thoughtful discussions on free speech or focusing only on Salem and Northgate neighborhood concerns. According to Chapter 64.250, he said it seems we must focus on neighborhood concerns. We can still share ideas if it helps the neighborhood. We must always keep an open mind and listen respectfully to others. Be kind to one another as we must stay unified and not split. He talked about the opening of a 24/7 open treatment center in Salem which is what we have been waiting for to treat the addicts and the mentally ill. He said he would like to zoom meet to discuss about the unmanaged homeless. **He also wanted to discuss Vagrancy Laws and Gang Task Force as Marlayne suggested writing letters to the City Council. These have been tabled as both Michael and Pennie said Vagrancy Laws are not legal and Gang Task Force needs more discussion.**
9. **Bayard called to end the meeting. Don made a motion to vote, seconded by Becca and all voted yes.** The meeting adjourned around 7:45 p.m.
10. The next meeting will be April 17th at 6 p.m. at the Sanctuary of Northgate Wesleyan Church.

Note, on-line voting:

Letter to City Councilors dated 2/22/2022, requesting to not defund removing of homeless and trash.

3/8/22 – NGNA board members passed a vote to get a plant for Nelson Morales as a special thanks.

3/9/22 – 4000 Deerhaven Dr. NE, and 4130 Portland Rd. NE , Salem OR 97301. Case # SPR-ADJ-DR22-13
NGNA board members passed vote on the proposal for renovation to Hallman Elementary school includes the development of a new vehicle use area with an entrance and exit on the upper level off Portland Rd.

From Sgt. Pratt:

1. *Homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/report-concerns-about-homelessness.aspx>
2. **Strategic Plan: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-police-strategic-plan.aspx>
3. ***Transparency Portal: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-police-transparency-portal.aspx>