

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2022

ZOOM Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes: Teri Lupoli, Secretary

Mike opened the meeting shortly after 7 PM. At Mike's request, Teri Lupoli welcomed everyone and introduced topics according to the published Agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 15th meeting minutes as provided by email. The motion carried.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Grant Davis

- The City of Salem has a new website for homeless resources. It will provide resources and information for those experiencing homelessness and for those who are trying to help. It is a place to get information on how to report concerns about camps.
 - <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/report-concerns-about-homelessness.aspx>
- The Salem Police Department Transparency Portal and the Strategic Plan
 - The Transparency Portal will have press releases and other interesting links and websites, including Lexus Nexus, the SPD Community Crime Map. This is available on the City website or directly at: communitycrimemap.com. This site will provide a wide range of crime information for the entire city, areas within the city, types of crimes, etc. The website is updated regularly, so information provided should be current.
 - The Strategic Plan can be viewed in the Transparency Portal through the City website.
- Body Cams
 - Currently SPD is in a testing phase with several companies. The body cams to be going out in the field on officers in various departments. Criteria for the cams will be ease of use, video transfer to the cloud securely, quality of video, etc. Sgt. Davis did not have a timeline for the testing.
- Questions for Sgt. Davis:
 - Teri Lupoli asked about the crimes reported on #OnPatrol that were mentioned on NextDoor and Facebook. Sgt. Davis didn't have details on the various crimes mentioned at this time, but he did say they should be listed on the Community Crime Map in the Transparency Portal.
 - Julie Frasier asked about having our NESCA "beat cop" come to the meetings as in the past. Sgt. Davis said that he has been assigned to the NESCA neighborhood. His job is to make sure that we are getting the information that is important to the neighborhood. If he needs to reach out to patrol to get additional information, he will do that.
 - Sgt. Davis said that if anyone ever has questions for him, he can be reached at: GKDavis@CityofSalem.net

3. City Councilor's Report: Chris Hoy

Chris let us know that Councilor Virginia Stapleton wouldn't be able to attend tonight as she had a family conflict.

- Open City Council Position
 - On Monday for interviews the Council will be doing interviews and having a possible vote for the open Ward 8 City Council position. Councilor Jim Lewis resigned from that position about a month ago.
 - There were originally eight applicants, but apparently one withdrew. The Boards and Commissions committee will be meeting tomorrow to consider the applicants and they will send names on to the Council for full interviews
- City Manager Position
 - A profile has been developed with input from the community, staff, and councilors. A recruiter has been hired and will be returning applicant information to the Council soon. There will be a public aspect to the process when the list of candidates is in place.
- City Librarian Position
 - There will be interviews on the 17th, which are open to the public. Those interested in the process can do so through the link below as it is Chris's understanding that everything will be done remotely.
 - <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/public-welcome-at-city-librarian-interviews-march-17.aspx>

- Park Grant
 - Council authorized the City Manager to apply for a park grant in NOLA. Currently it is an undeveloped park, so they are hoping to get Phase 1 started soon.
- New Speed Bumps
 - Councilor Jose Gonzales brought a motion to Council for a new process for creating future speed bumps. The current process has caused a lot of frustrations when neighbors are attempting to acquire a speed bump. The new process would allow for more speed bumps to be considered and have shorter timelines for approval and completion. There are no details yet, but Council just gave staff a heads-up that this was now a topic and that changes are needed. There will be more to follow.
 - Question: What is the frustration?
 - Even though Ian Johnson was able to acquire a speed bump for his NESCA neighborhood, many are unable to get the ones they feel they need. Salem Fire Department has some veto power on new speed bumps believing they impact fire apparatus and community safety. This is going to be addressed and, hopefully, compromises can be made to help the community get the speed bumps while maintaining the ability of the Fire Department to provide timely services.
 - This change is currently only addressing the possibility of speed bumps on “residential” designated streets. “Collector” streets will require different criteria. and where other conversations will come in regarding “traffic calming” possibilities.
- Homeless/Unsheltered update:
 - Chris was able to get a bill passed in the State Legislature that allows the City of Salem to use suitable excess, under-utilized state properties for micro shelters for the homeless. The Governor signed the bill last Monday, so it is now law. The desire is to now take this state-wide.
 - A new team has been organized who will be more proactive when it comes to moving people from camping locations or doing camp clean-ups. Currently, every Thursday, staff from Public Works and Parks, some police, and others are pulled off their regular duties to do cleanups. Last Thursday, Councilors Philips and Andersen joined Chris to observe this cleanup process at Cascades Gateway Park. It is quite taxing on staff resources, so Council has augmented the process for the remainder of this fiscal year and the Budget Committee will take up this issue for next year. Hopefully this will mean quicker responses to the needs of moving camps. Often people don’t understand why the camps are moved, but many times it’s a matter of safety. There were recent situations at Marion Square Park (stabblings, sexual assaults, and a huge vector problem with rats) that created health and safety issues for campers and staff. Prior to the sweeps, posters are put up to let campers know of the upcoming cleanup of the camp. Staff makes daily personal contacts with campers for several days prior to the cleanup to help get people moved into better situations before the sweep happens. March cleanups are scheduled for Cascades Gateway Park on the 17th and on the 24th and 31st at Wallace Marine Park.
 - Mosaic Hotel
 - Purchased by the Center for Hope and Safety for domestic violence survivors. The hotel environment wasn’t working well for families with the small refrigerators, etc. Some Federal funds came through and Council approved some money to install better kitchen facilities .
 - Chris mentioned that many people want to help the homeless and often do so in ways that are not actually helpful. For example, at the Cascade Gateway clean up there was a piano that someone had taken out there, along with couches and other large pieces of furniture. His advice is to not take any items directly to a camp but rather donate funds to the non-profits who are working directly with the homeless population or volunteer time with one of the non-profits.
 - Questions for Chris:
 - Did the City buy the old Costco building? No. It has been purchased, but not by the city. Chris doesn’t know the details of the sale at this time.
 - Is there any progress on the D Street Park acquisition by NESCA? Chris pulled it from the previous Council agenda as Councilor Stapleton wasn’t going to be there and he wanted her to be a part of the conversation. It should be on the next Agenda on the 28th.

4. Guest Speaker: Stacey Vieyra-Braendle, Candidate for Ward 6 City Council position

- Stacey introduced herself and provided information about her background. Chris Hoy has let us know that she is a wonderful candidate for Ward 6 and has his full support. She is currently an occupational therapist for Kaiser Permanente in Clackamas working with patients who have had strokes, accidents, hip replacements, and other life altering situations, helping them to function as well as is possible. Prior to moving to Salem in 2010, Stacey was a music therapy major at Arizona State where she got her Bachelor's Degree and then worked as a music therapist with children. When first moving to Salem, she worked at the State Hospital for about seven years before going back to school to get her Occupational Therapy degree. Stacey lives off D and Savage, around the corner from Hoover School.
- Community and mentorship have always been very important to Stacey and is her primary reason for running for the Council position. Her goal is to help Salem become a community that gives to one another and helps one another in whatever way we can whenever we can. A community with compassion.
- Three things she is passionate about in her campaign:
 - Homelessness and affordable housing
 - Hoping to be able to implement specialty services that are needed for mental health issues, those who have had major medical issues and have no place to go and for kids who are experiencing homelessness in Salem.
 - Equity and Accessibility
 - Ward 6 is one of the most diverse wards in the city and at times residents have felt it didn't get a fair share of City resources. Chris Hoy has been an incredible advocate for Ward 6 and it is Stacey's stated desire to continue the work that he has started. She hopes to be able to make city government, committees, and boards more accessible. Stacey would like to see childcare issues considered for folks wanting to attend meetings and hopes to be able to help improve transportation so people can more easily attend meetings and become involved. Translation services are also important to help people feel included.
 - Health
 - Stacey is very passionate about mental health, physical health, invisible disabilities, and environmental health.
 - Improving park spaces in our ward.
 - Improving transportation for people to better access the health care they need.

Questions/Comments:

- Ian Johnson: Regarding the conversation about mass transit, Salem transportation is operated by Cherriots and has its own hierarchy and can be somewhat difficult at times to work with. Stacey has met with the President of the Board at Cherriots and found him to very accessible for conversations, for example mapping out where better bike lanes could be installed. She understands that this is outside the scope of the City Council, but feels that with good relationships and collaboration things can be improved.
- Ian Johnson: Regarding distribution of Council funds - what's fair/equal vs what's equitable. What's your position? Stacey felt like she didn't know enough about the budgeting process, so she joined the Salem Citizen Budget Committee to learn how the budget is made and how decisions are made on where to allocate funds. Equal and equitable are not the same and Stacey feels that more work needs to be done to ensure equitable allocations.
- Julie Fraser: Are you running against anyone? Yes, there is another candidate who happens to share the same last name as Chris, however, there is no family relationship. The other candidate, Julie Hoy, is a small business owner in Salem, (owner of Geppetto's and possibly other enterprises), but Stacey doesn't know her so doesn't want to speak about her positions or her background.

Stacey's website: <https://www.staceyforward6.com/getinvolved>

Stacey's email: Stacey.vieyrabraendle@gmail.com

Chris clarified the redrawn boundaries for Ward 6. North-South boundaries are from Sunnyview (formerly Market Street) south to Center Street (formerly D Street) and includes all of North Campus. Ward 2's northern boundary used to be at D Street, and it has now moved to Center Street. Chris said that with the redrawing of the Wards, he believes that Virginia no longer has any portion of NESCA. That may be incorrect, but it was his understanding this had been changed as she only had a portion of the west side of 23rd Street NE.

4. Guest Speaker: Jennifer Hingston, Graffiti Abatement, City of Salem

Jennifer oversees two employees on the Graffiti Abatement Team for the Salem Police Department. The main goal of the team is to respond to all reports for the entire city, so the team is very busy. The main thing she would ask is that people report graffiti as the team obviously can't be everywhere. Ways to report graffiti: call the Graffiti Hotline at 503-371-4264 or send an email to graffiti@cityofsalem.net. So, please report as soon as possible. The key is to get it cleaned up soon. The longer it is left unattended, the more it attracts additional graffiti. If it's on your property, people are encouraged to take a picture and send it to the team so they can document it and then possibly link it to other graffiti sites by the same person. If the person is caught, they can be liable for restitution for the damages. If you need assistance in removing the graffiti, they are also happy to help. They have a pressure washer, some grey paint, and a few other colors (not necessarily to match). The main goal is to just paint over the graffiti as quickly as possible. Usual places for graffiti are stop signs, utility boxes, fences, mailboxes, and in parks.

2022 Graffiti Stats for the City and then the number in NESCA for comparison:

January	108 calls total; only 19 in NESCA
February	124 calls total; only 25 in NESCA
March to date	62 calls total; only 4 in NESCA

NESCA is doing well so far, but, Jennifer asked that everyone be sure to report graffiti, even if you paint it yourself.

Questions/Comments:

Julie Fraser: Concerns about gang graffiti. There is a lot of graffiti on the fence directly across the street from Hoover school and it is getting worse all the time with competing gangs tagging the fence. Being gang graffiti adds a bit higher level of concern. The question is if the Graffiti Abatement Team sees an increase in gang-related graffiti activity, does that go to the beat cop or someone else in the Police Department so they can keep track of what's going on? Jennifer said they communicate with officers in the different districts, with the sergeants, as well as the crime analysis unit if they see something abnormal or increased gang graffiti. Jennifer will send someone out to the location tomorrow to get it covered over. Technically, when it is a private fence, it is the property owner's responsibility to cover the graffiti within 5 business days or as quickly as possible. However, her department is always willing to help.

Marilyn Moritz: Reported she was recently at Hoover Park and there was graffiti everywhere. She notified the Parks Department because she understood they are to take care of graffiti in the parks. Jennifer said they work very closely with the Parks Department and, depending on who has the time available, one or the other will attend to the painting of the graffiti.

Irma Dowd: Two questions 1) How often, if at all, do you find the perpetrators? 2) Has the recent open position had been filled and is the current opening a third position? Jennifer said there are only two positions, one currently unfilled, although they just signed a Conditional Job Offer today. They are in the process of doing background checks, so hopefully the person will be onboard next month and the team will be back up to two people. In response to the first question, Jennifer said, unfortunately, it isn't often. Occasionally someone will be seen and caught.

Lindsey: What is being done about gangs, not just the graffiti? Jennifer said that there is no longer a gang enforcement team and so it is up to district patrol officers to go out. There is a unit called Problem Oriented Policing, a Community Action Unit, but mostly it's just the officers. There are no school resource officers who were able to mentor the kids and help keep some of them from gang activity.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Land Use *Ian Johnson*
- DAS is in process of doing RFQs for the Center Street Property and purchase of the Dome Building.
- b. Transportation: (no report) *Julie Redden*
- c. Parks *Eli Brody*
- Eli looked at the plans for the Geer Park Skate Park and took the survey. There is a video with the survey and there are two options for the skate park. Eli feels this skate park is going to be a real unique addition to Geer Park, next to the bike track, and will provide a great opportunity for families to go to enjoy the park.
 - The next NESCA street clean-up will be held on March 26th. Meet at 8:30 at the north end of the Park and Ride on Hawthorne next to the Holiday Inn. All safety equipment will be provided.
 - Eli thanked Code Enforcement Officer Christi Wolfe for the work the City did in removing the camp and trash that was directly south of McDonalds.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
- All schools are collecting shoes for the Battle of the Shoes. Shoes can be deposited at any high school by Friday the 18th.
 - Ian Johnson mentioned the “Girls on the Run” program at Hoover School that is currently providing volunteer opportunities and accepting donations for the “Girls on the Run” program, a youth development and leadership program. There are 22 little girls-only runners working towards a 5k race. Hoover is a needy school and some girls who may want to participate may not have money for running shoes, so cash donations are always welcomed. Volunteers to help with the program are also needed.
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
- Gary said we can now just call him “Chip.” He has been quite busy lately helping put down chips at Bush Park and then at Englewood Park.
 - Creek cleanup is the first Saturday of every month. This month he was working along the creek at 13th and Marion (behind Safeway) to Olinger (pool area) and was doing mostly blackberry abatement.
- f. North Campus
- Julie Fraser expressed concern about the possibility of more trees being removed by Comfort Homes and questioned if they are following the guidelines that were in place for Neighborly Ventures. Councilor Hoy said that every developer must provide a tree preservation plan to show the City that they are trying to protect the trees, to determine which trees can be removed, and which trees will be saved. They have a duty to preserve those trees. Julie’s concern came from observing a tree being removed on 25th where houses are now being built.

6. Other Business:

- Bylaws:
 - Goal for this evening is to get any comments and questions to finish the cleanup of the Bylaws, so the document can be edited, and then have it available for the April meeting.
 - It was originally planned to have this available for this meeting. However, as the NESCA boundary is still not confirmed, it wouldn’t make sense to do so as it would then just need to be amended again.
 - Changes: (all subject to the City Attorney approval, generally not an issue unless something is very illegal.)
 - General clean up
 - Chair and Vice Chair gender neutral and removed gendered pronouns throughout
 - Removed term limits for the Chair based on comments received
 - Added a provision to allow the Chair to limit meetings to NESCA membership and hold “special meetings” where attendance could be limited. This was discussed with the City Attorney who said that meetings can be limited to just NESCA members and the Chair can have people identify themselves. The only criteria is that it just must be stated. What Ian put in was the maximum amount of control that the attorney advised.
 - “Special meetings” have to be announced and invitations need to be sent.

- It is not required to allow everyone to speak at Board Meetings (even though we have a tradition of allowing that), only at general membership meetings.
- Added a provision to Article VII – Committees of the Association
 - To allow the Chair to appoint a non-NESCA member to lead or be on a committee. That individual would NOT be able to vote, however.
- Flexible Number of Board Members
 - 3, 5, 7, or 9. The number would be required to be determined at the Annual meeting and would then be set for that year.
- Minor clarifications
 - Section 3d. Language about removing Board members for cause.
 - Moved some things around that were needed but in the wrong places.
- Bylaws Amendment Process changes (once adopted)
 - A board member must submit bylaw amendments (sponsor it).
 - The revisions are entered into the Minutes
 - At the Board Meeting where it is considered, more can be added or removed, then it is voted on to determine if it will be taken to the general membership. The general membership meeting can be held at THE SAME MEETING as the Board Meeting. OR, it can be delayed, but only for 90 days from date of approval by the Board. If not approved at that time, the entire process has to start again.
- DISCUSSION:
 - Isn't it normal that the Chair, Vice Chair, other Board members don't vote? Per Ian, the NESCA Bylaws are currently set up so that everyone gets to vote. Some neighborhood associations do not allow the Chair to vote except in a tie-breaker situation.
- SUGGESTION:
 - Add a map of NESCA to be published with the Bylaws when the boundary is determined.

Ian will go forward with creating a clean version with final edits and will contact Irma Dowd (City of Salem) to determine at what point the City Attorney wants to look at it (before we adopt it, after we adopt it, or not at all). He will bring it back to us in April. Under current Bylaws the Board would vote to accept the revisions at that time and then it will be voted on by the general membership in May. Once adopted, it will be sent to Irma Dowd, City of Salem, for publishing.

Website Information:

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>

There being no further business, Mike Beringer thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on April 19th, beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The link is also available on the city website.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Teri Lupoli*, Marilyn Moritz*, Lynn Cardiff*, Eli Brody*, Gary Pullman*, Ken Gettys*, Ian Johnson, Jim Lupoli, Julie Frasier, Sgt. Grant Davis Salem PD, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Irma Dowd City of Salem, Stacey Vieyra-Braendle Ward 6 Councilor Candidate, Jennifer Hingson Graffiti Abatement City of Salem, Amador Aguilar Enlace.

*NESCA Board Members