

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2022

ZOOM Meeting

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

Due to technical difficulties at NESCA Chair Mike Beringer's, the meeting was opened at approximately 7:10 PM. At Mike's request, Teri Lupoli, opened the meeting and welcomed all who had checked in. Teri also kept the meeting on topic per the Agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 18th meeting minutes as provided by email. The motion carried.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Grant Davis

- SPD is working on their new transparency portal, which is a way to receive and share information with the department. The purpose is to build transparency and trust with the community, to provide feedback to officers, provide press releases, reports, etc. The portal is currently in process and is not fully functioning yet. Sgt. Davis also explained how the new site will function.
- Body Cams: Funding has been made available for body cams. The Department is currently looking at different companies and testing samples. There will be in-the-field trials of the various products to determine which is felt to work best. The testing will continue for a while. There is no timeline for completion of the trials.
- Questions for Sgt. Davis:
 - Eli Brody mentioned a probable scam with a phony Amazon package. A person knocked on Eli's door with a picture of a package on his phone that had an "Amazon" label addressed to Eli. He claimed he found the package in a dumpster behind his company on Coral Avenue. Eli said he the whole thing was weird because he knew he did not have any missing Amazon orders. He later drove to Coral Avenue and there was no such business on that street. Eli did speak with an officer who confirmed it sounded like a scam. Eli mentioned it tonight just to make everyone aware so they would not fall victim.
 - There have been some additional shootings in or around Englewood Park and on Market Street. Eli asked Sgt. Davis if he knew what was happening. Sgt. Davis will look into this and get information.
 - There is a beat-up camper that has taken up residence in the B Street parking lot (between the D Street Field and the Dome Building). Eli was wondering who is responsible for having it removed. As the property is still owned by DAS, Sgt. Davis said Salem PD would not be able to intervene.
 - Mike Beringer mentioned a new homeless camp on Hawthorne. Sgt. Davis said this camp is on private property so other steps are required. He will find out who should be contacted about this camp.

3. City Councilor's Report: Chris Hoy

Chris introduced Stacey Viera Breandle who is running for the Ward 6 City Council position to replace Chris who is running for the Mayor's position.

- As a follow-up about the camper parked at North Campus, Chris said that the tow yards are basically full-up and have no more capacity for derelict motor homes. So many of the units are basically full of hazardous waste that going through them to clean them up for resale is basically impossible. There is a company in Portland that Salem contracted with who is equipped with Haz mat suits and ways to dispose of hazardous materials in the units. Unfortunately, they also have no more capacity. The problem is very severe and basically a statewide problem. Conversations are ongoing on how to solve this problem.
- Proposed Casino. There have been flyers around town and posts on social media telling those who are against this casino to contact the City Council to express their concerns. Chris reiterated that the **Salem City Council has NO** role in determining if it is built or not. All concerns need to be addressed to the Governor and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The environmental assessment is done and there will be a period of comment until April 8th on the BIA website. The proposed casino will be on Indian property on Portland Road near the Harbor Freight location.
- The scheduled clean-up dates are for homeless camps are: Claggett Creek on 2/10, Geer Park on 2/17, and Marion Square on 2/24. Cascades Gateway Park and Wallace Marine Park are scheduled for March. There is also a camp developing on North Lancaster (across from Safeway) by the Dairy Queen. The good news is that two weeks ago Council approved three new sites for micro shelters. Currently there is only funding for one (12th and Center Street location), but when in place these shelters provide places for people to get healthy, have a

safe place to sleep and store their possessions. At the present time the city has 167 employees out with Covid so there are serious delays in getting day-to-day business accomplished. Chris asked that everyone be patient.

- The City Manager is retiring. There will be a special meeting on Tuesday the 22nd to consider the profile for the hiring process. There will be time for public comments.
- Ward 8 Councilor Jim Lewis retired. He had previously announced that he was not going to run again left early due to family and health situations.

3. City Councilor's Report: Virginia Stapleton

Virginia reported it has been very busy in Council. Back in December the Council got a lot of things done such as the UVC Code Updates (which were addressed in January) and the "Our Salem" project, which will be discussed next month. The Climate Action Plan was discussed at Council last night (14th) with a Task Force of Council and staff established to go through the 180 ideas to get a plan in place. The Street Art project that she presented was passed by Council and the "20 is Plenty" program was passed to move ahead for a public hearing. Many positive things are happening.

4. Guest Speaker: Courtney Knox-Busch, Strategic Planning, City of Salem

Courtney provided information on the Salem Community Improvements Bond. The Bond, which is not just for a single program, is in early planning stages. Some ideas for the bond are new fire equipment and for parks. The Bond is a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$300M for 10 years. **There will be no increase in taxes as the tax rate will remain level.** The City is asking for community input in order to let the community drive the various projects.

- Comments:
 - A stated hope is that the projects will be "equity" driven rather than "fairness" driven as there are far greater needs in some areas for distributing funds.
 - Land purchases now for future parks is needed.
 - Street improvements that would help the transit system and by doing so would also help with climate issues.

Timeline:

- Idea gathering stage
- March 18th Steering Committee to discuss all projects, including equity situations
- April to City Council feedback
- November 2022 the Bond will be on the ballot
- Questions/Comments for Courtney:
 - Perhaps it might be possible to have a Haz Mat center for Salem.
 - A young dentist is leaving Salem due to the inability to safely ride his bike to/from work.
 - As the 2006 Bond was for fire trucks, why we need to buy new ones?
 - All of the 2006 Bond was used for fire trucks at the cost of \$700k/truck and \$1.2M for a ladder truck.
 - The 2006 trucks are nearing the end of their useful life expectancy, all with nearly 450K miles.
 - The cost from the 2022 Bond is expected to be about \$26M for 17 trucks/ladder trucks/equipment for grass fires. The chart of the possible expenditures shows that the Fire Engines and Equipment is slightly less than 1/8th of the entire Bond.
- Courtney provided a pie chart of possible expenditures for the Bond. A copy of that chart is attached to these minutes.

4. Guest Speaker: Ray Quisenberry, "20 is Plenty" Program

Ray has been going to many of the Neighborhood Association meetings to get support for lowering speed limits on neighborhood streets from 25 mph to 20 mph. Many studies have proven the theory that a 5-mph reduction does cut fatalities by approximately one-half (especially pedestrians and bicyclists). The program has been adopted in Portland, Eugene, Seattle, and many other American cities as well as internationally. Ray feels it is time to implement it in Salem and was pleased to know that the City Council passed it. ODOT is on board for the program as well. Signage and education will help make the program work. Ray is asking NESCA to send a letter of support to the City Council. It needs to be noted that those streets that are considered as "collector" streets will not be a part of the "20 is Plenty" program.

- Councilor Chris Hoy comments:
 - An Implementation date has not yet been established.
 - This is a first step and there will be multiple ways to educate the community.

NESCA Neighbor Ken Gettys stated an opposition to the plan for a variety of reasons and feels that 25 mph is fine. He stated he cannot imagine that people are actually going to slow down to 20 mph. He questioned if all the school zone signs (that were added a few years ago) with the 20-mph requirement would be removed and was told they will be staying in addition to any new signage. He also asked what the cost would be to replace all the current signs. Councilor Virginia Stapleton said there are 10,000 signs at a cost of \$150 per sign.

4. Guest speaker: Evan Sekulic, Neighborly Ventures – The Jory

- The first tenant for The Jory has moved into Building 3
- A Services Manager named Kelso has been hired.
- The Jory management is working on times for open house and tours and when meetings can be held on site. There's new gym equipment in place as well as furniture and other fixtures.
- New signs are up with The Jory logo on large rock slabs.
- The public pedestrian path from the State property to D Street has been started, but is not through yet.
- Roundabout
 - Concerns voiced about possible safety issues with the roundabout were brought up to the design team who looked at everything and felt it was safe. There is some hesitation for putting up any barriers or railings, both for maintenance reasons and standards. There is discussion of possibly adding red or yellow paint and/or some reflectors.
 - The uplighting that is in the well of the roundabout to highlight the trees will possibly help define the boundaries, but it doesn't appear to be on as yet.
- The Model Home, by Comfort Homes, is in progress. Evan will ask to the builder come as a guest to a future NESCA to talk about plans for the construction. It is Evan's understanding that the Model Home, located just north of the main entrance, will not be the design for all of the other homes. He will pass along the builder's contact information to Mike Beringer and Teri Lupoli for distribution to those who may have other questions or concerns about the homes.

5. Committee Reports:

- North Campus DAS project
 - RFQs (Request for Qualifications) will be issued in March.
 - Ian will clarify if the remaining North Campus property is to be sold as one unit or if it can be sold in separate parcels (the 17 acres on Center Street, the Dome Building, and the B Street parking lot).
 - By-Laws Amendments
 - Will be sent out to all NESCA Board members. The Adoption process in the current By-Laws is:
 - Changes must be posted 10 days prior to a regular meeting (first posting will need to be on 3/5/22) for a vote by the Board to move the proposed By-Laws to the general membership.
 - Vote on the adoption of the proposed By-Laws.
 - One of the changes in the proposed By-Laws is a simplified adoption process.
 - Current By-Laws also state that the proposal has to be submitted by a Board member.
 - D Street Field Park
 - Ian received direction from Lisa Ogilvie-Anderson, City of Salem, that the NESCA boundary will be going to hearing on City Council on the 28th. If NESCA wants comments to be included with the packet, comments will need to be to the City by Friday, 2/18, for the hearing on the 28th.
 - A motion was made and seconded that Ian prepare a letter for Mike's signature to be submitted for City Council.
 - Ian will write a letter based on his earlier document. Mike will review it and then sign and submit it to the City before the close of business on Friday.
 - Marilyn has sent follow-up messages to the three City Councilors that she and Teri visited with about this issue
- b. Transportation: *Julie Redden*
- Contacted the City Traffic Engineer about adding the 25 mph sign on 23rd (southbound) and signs for the new 25th Street NE. She learned the 25th Street signs will not be installed until it is known if the "20 Is Plenty" plan is adopted so correct signage will be in installed.

- Julie discovered some stop signs had been added inside of Ellis and 25th, but learned the City did not install them, that someone made their own. The signs will be removed.
- c. Parks *Eli Brody*
 - 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 will contact Code Enforcement Office Christi Wolfe for help in procuring a dumpster for the trash that is on the property just south of the McDonald's.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
 - Teri reported that she, Vice Chair Marilyn Moritz, and Lucy Beringer recently assisted with the community-wide Pie Drive for all local teachers and support staff. 48 pies for the teachers and support staff, and a "thank you" basket of snacks for office staff, were delivered to Hoover. After delivering to Hoover, Teri and Marilyn returned to Salem First Church of the Nazarene (the distribution center for the project) to work with Lucy and many others to label and prepare pies for delivery. Overall, 6,000 pies were distributed.
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
 - The first Saturday clean up at Mill Creek was superseded by tree planting.
 - Friends of Trees planted approximately 25-30 new trees at McKay Park, near San Francisco Street.

6. Other Business:

- Book drive: NESCA is collecting paperback books for distribution to the Oregon State Hospital as well as books for youth from the ages of 11-18 at Alternative Services. Criteria for the books is that they are not "R" or "X" rated. Books can be delivered to the home of Marilyn Moritz, 1034 24th Street NE.
- Meeting Agendas with Zoom Link
 - The City provides the meeting Agenda with the Zoom link approximately one week prior to the meeting. When received, Teri Lupoli, NESCA Secretary, then sends the Agenda to all those on the email distribution list. The Agenda will also be resent to that same distribution list on the day of the meeting. The Agenda information and ZOOM link is also available on the City website.
- 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>
 - To get more information on the Improvement Bond: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/salem-infrastructure-bond.aspx>

There being no further business, Mike Beringer thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on March 15th, 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, Julie Redden, Jim Lupoli, Lucy Beringer, Amador Aguilar, Sgt. Grant Davis Salem PD, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Virginia Stapleton City Councilor, Courtney Knox Busch City of Salem Strategic Planning, Ray Quisenberry "20 is Plenty", Evan Sekulic, Stacey Viera Braendle

*NESCA Board Members

Attachment (1) 2022 Bond Measure Chart