

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

General Meeting May 5, 2022 6:15 pm Broadway Commons and online via: Zoom video conference

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT - <i>P</i>	ABSENT - <i>A</i>	EXCUSED - <i>E</i>		
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	<i>P</i>	TINA HANSEN	<i>P</i>	SAM SKILLERN	<i>P</i>
MARK DECOURSEY	<i>P</i>	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	<i>P</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>P</i>
TIM FRANCE	<i>P</i>	ELLIOTT LAPINEL	<i>A</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>P</i>
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	<i>P</i>	NICK MASELLI	<i>P</i>		
LOLA HACKETT	<i>E</i>	SUSAN NAPACK	<i>P</i>		

Others present: Teresa Joslin, Laura Hermann, Dee Ryerson, Lindy Beaver, David Collins, Greta Bergquist, Marissa Theve, Mark Jantz, Ashley Daven, Jodi Erickson, Connie Williams, Jeff Williams, Tara Hanby, Courtney Knox Busch, Scott Munford, Carolin VanOrdin, Nick Beleiciks, Carol DeCoursey, Ashe Dalen, and Virginia Stapleton.

Christopher made a motion that *“We approve the April minutes as submitted.”* Paul seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 10 abstentions.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Jeanne reported that the very buckled sidewalk on the east side of Winter Street, between E and Belmont streets, along with portions east down both E and Belmont are being removed.
- Teresa said that the 50+ Center is open and getting back to full operation.
- Susan reminded all that the NEN-Grant Neighborhood Clean-up will be May 14th from 9:00 am to noon in the east parking lot of the First Nazarene Church at 1550 Market Street. There will be recycling/reusing opportunities for bicycles, furniture, etc. There are also bins for scrap metal, tires, and trash that is too large to fit in a conventional garbage can; for instance, a broken car seat. Susan had flyers with all the information. Volunteers are still needed.
- Ashe reported that Salem Alliance Church is partnering with Northwest Hub for a Bicycle Drive t benefit Salem for Refugees. The bikes will be repaired or refurbished, as needed, and donated to newly arriving refugees for transportation. Bikes in any state of working order are welcome

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- Nick B. expressed concern for the new sidewalk reported in #2, above. He has learned that new concrete next to old trees can stress them and even kill them. Courtney said she will contact the City’s Urban Forester and get back to us. Virginia said that she has spoken already with the City Arborist and he has reviewed the work site. He is concerned about 7 of the trees. The trees are evaluated for their likely ability to withstand cutting of their roots. If authorized, the grade is lowered about 12-inches, a stable base is created, and the concrete sidewalk is poured. Right now, the project is on hold until the Urban Forester returns next week. Nick M. said that the tree that used to be in his parking strip was buckling the public sidewalk and also his private walk. It had been planted by the city, but was deemed an inappropriate species for that location. The city removed it. Now Nick is looking for available varieties that will be a good choice for this narrow location. He said that the City of Portland website has lists of about 150 tree species with information on appropriate site conditions for each one. Virginia said that the Salem Urban Forester has reviewed and revised Salem’s list of appropriate trees. Teresa commented that main streets, which have higher ADA compliance requirements, receive better street tree care. A neighbor asked if the power companies have a say in what trees are planted. They do not, on an individual basis, but the tree list that the city generates identifies trees that are appropriate when power lines are present.

- Teresa expressed a desire to remove parking permit requirements from her block on Gaines between Capitol and Summer streets so the fees are eliminated. Grant NA's experience has always been hearing from those residents who want to add parking permits. Sam will contact the City Public Works staff and determine the process to do the reverse and report back next month.
- Neighbors still have complaints about excessively loud cars on Summer Street; especially late at night.
- A neighbor expressed concern about the future occupants of a group home, concerned that there could be security issues. Another neighbor, who has experience with group homes and their management, urged calm and recommended contacting the home manager or staff with concerns about any behavior you observe or interactions that you have had with a resident. Beyond that, the owner of the company can be contacted or you might contact Virginia to enlist any help you feel you need from the city.
- Mark said that Luke Glaze is solicitating preferences for what the neighborhood would like to see in the Columbia Hall building. He is at a juncture and is considering either an event space or residential use. Each takes a different permit, along with other considerations, such as parking and how to renovate.

#4 **Officer Report**

Officer Mark Jantz was present and reported that the Salem Police Department has received approval from City Council to create two officer positions, for a limited duration, that will be dedicated to working with the homeless camps that have been identified, based on concerns forwarded to the City Manager from the general population. They will triage for the cleanup schedule. The two officers will be taken off of patrol status. They were selected from volunteers from within the division who expressed a willingness to work this duty. If the project works well, and funding can be found, it could develop into a permanent position/program. The idea is to work with the population, not just do enforcement.

On May 1st, a request was issued for groups who are interested in a "CAHOOTS" style crisis response program to address both basic and behavioral health evaluations for non-emergency encounters that are not a threat, in any way, to the individual or to others. Applications will be received through July 1st. One issue that is currently trending is large groups of RVs taking over neighborhoods. Tents require a 72-hour notice before they can legally be removed. RVs require a 5-day warning. On top of that, there is limited towing available and inadequate storage capacity at local tow yards. There is a civil process to dispose of someone else's property, along with the complication of disposing of fuel, water and waste tanks, and asbestos materials in older models. They have to go to a special company in Portland, which is currently inundated. Therefore, they are only able to tow 2-3 per week because of the backup. On May 12th, the SPD will renew their 'Coffee with a Cop' program. It will be at the Starbucks at 1134 Lancaster Drive from 9:00 to 10:30 am.

National Night Out is on August 2nd this year and signups for having an officer attend begin on May 16th.

#5 **Councilor Report**

Virginia reported:

- We must keep in mind that the Eugene "CAHOOTS" program has been in place for a long time, and while it is great to aim for that level, we must be realistic about the fact that we are just getting started;
- A Navigation Center is coming and they are working towards funds for a Sobriety Center. Folks should also contact their County Commissioners about helping with funding for these services;
- The city budget process continues next Wednesday evening May 11th. Discussion items will include emergency responders and the need for 60 additional police officers. Neighborhood Associations have been bringing their concerns, and are still welcome to attend;
- On May 16th there will be a City Council bond work session that will include review and discussion, but no decisions will be made. The vote about putting it on the ballot will be taken on May 23rd. Paul, who is on the budget committee, mentioned that a set amount of money is available for City Parks. Grant Park, the only one in our neighborhood, has not been identified as a funding site. The GNA

should attend the budget hearings to advocate for some needed improvements, such as replacing the old perimeter fencing that is badly misshapen after decades of wear.

- The Climate Action group had their first sub-committee meeting today;
- Salem-Keizer Transit, Salem-Keizer School District, and the City of Salem are working on a program to provide free passes for kids to ride public transportation, in an attempt to change habits and behaviors;
- On May 6th, the First Friday activities will resume downtown. Included will be free music at the amphitheater at Riverfront Park;
- Creeks are expected to crest over the weekend from the steady rain we have been getting;
- June 17th will be Public Works Day at Riverfront Park. Lots of big equipment will be there to educate and amuse – especially for children of all ages;
- The city will have a new website coming in June;
- Movies in the Park are on again for the summer at Riverfront Park. Titles, times, and other informational items are available at the city website;
- The Civic Center turns 50 on August 15th. It will be gaining an Historic Building designation.
- Tina asked for an update on the progress to develop emergency rules for apartment buildings. Virginia said that later this month, after the election is over, she will be meeting with Chris Hoy to chart out a plan to approach the state legislature and work towards a state-wide program;
- Susan asked if there was anything Virginia needed from Grant NA regarding the street painting code work. Virginia, said “Yes, please.” Even though it is not likely to fail passing, the Council always likes to hear from those who support new projects.

#6 Board Member Elections

Aaron and Jeanne explained the process for electing Executive Board Members and also highlighted what the duties and responsibilities are. All of the current 13 board members are willing to stand for reelection. There are two openings on the 15-member board. Jeanne nominated Teresa Joslin to join the board. Susan nominated Marissa Theve to join the board. No other nominations were made from the floor. Christopher made a motion that ***“We accept the slate of existing board members and the addition of Teresa and Marissa.”*** Paul seconded the motion. Vote was 22 in favor, 0 opposed.

#7 Street Painting – Draft Designs

Greta Bergquist spoke on behalf of the Street Painting Committee, which consists of Greta, Erika Baker, Laura Herrmann, Alice Herrmann, and Susan Napack. Laura put in motion the effort to get the process started. The City of Salem is changing the Development Code to amend the definition of Community Art to include neighborhood street paintings. The painting committee is hoping that all of those changes are approved in time to paint on the weekend of July 2nd and 3rd. Greta had a PowerPoint presentation to show the four illustration options that have been prepared and also a brief explanation of the vision behind each artwork. These included:

CHERRY BLOSSOMS - That moment, on the first sunny afternoon in spring when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom and you can lay out on a picnic blanket and enjoy the warm sun through the pink canopy.

MARIGOLD - A bright and radiant flower design to bring vibrance to the neighborhood.

MILL CREEK - clouds, hills and Mill Creek which runs through the neighborhood. Water connects us all.

SPILLING COLOR - Symmetrical shapes of bright colors spilling into each other and into the street, moving outward from red to green and blue to purple. Brightness to catch the eye.

To see the designs and vote on a preference, go to: <https://www.grantneighborhood.org/>

A neighbor asked who will be doing the painting. Greta said it will be volunteers and Erika will be the director. To maintain the vibrancy of the artwork, it will be necessary to repaint it about every 3 years. The alternative is to allow it to fade. No text or symbols are allowed, or anything offensive. When asked about funding, Susan said that we will be discussing that at our June NA meeting. She

has been in preliminary discussions with Miller Paint Company, here in Salem, about support with paint and tools. If things stay on schedule, the intersection will be closed and the paint area primed on July 2nd, with the colored paint applied on July 3rd.

#8 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola was at CERT class, so Christopher brought the announcements:
 - Saturday marks the final exercise for the current class; allowing them to practice what they have been learning. The disaster drill will be at the Airport Fire Station. Anyone who wants to volunteer to be a “victim” is welcome to come at 8:00 am to get prepped. A potluck lunch will follow.
- Communications/Outreach – Susan reported:
 - She is going to have a Grant Neighborhood booth at the Grant School Carnival on May 19th and would like some volunteers. The event is held in Grant Park.
 - A map was displayed, showing the proposed locations for the four historic sign toppers that she has been working towards. Once ordered, it takes about 1-month to get them. The quote from the city for all four signs is \$343.40. Susan made a motion that ***“We authorized the use of \$343.40 from our communication funds to order four ‘Historic Neighborhood’ street sign toppers from the City of Salem.”*** Connie seconded the motion. Vote was 22 in favor, 0 opposed.
- Land Use Updates - Paul had no report this evening.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – No report. Sam had to leave early.

#9 Other Business

Nothing was brought forth

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright