



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
April 21st, 2022, at Northgate Wesleyan Church Annex, Salem, OR

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

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

Board Member absent with excuse: Don Jensen, Land Use Chair who was sick; Pedro Mayoral's son was sick.

City Staff Present: Gretchen Bennett, City Homeless Advocate and Irma Dowd, City Liaison (on zoom).

Guest Speakers: Tim Murphy, CEO of Bridgeway and Gretchen Bennett.

Other Members: Phyllis Abbott-Cabotta (in person); Shirley Robertson (in person); Marlayne Madison and Thomas Madison (on zoom)

1. Bayard called the meeting to start around 6 p.m. Since there was no quorum, the Minutes of March 17th could not be voted to be approved.
2. Jose Gonzalez, NGNA's Councilor was asked to speak. He started by talking about the speed bumps and that the status is still unknown but he is working on it. He talked about the lavatory at Northgate Park. He said if the park was used only for the surrounding community, it does not need a lavatory. However, there are summer events starting to happen and these call for about 200 people or more each day. A lavatory would be in order. He also discussed the bike lanes. Michael said he would like some bike lanes along Portland Road to downtown. Most people thought the infrastructure money should be spent wisely. That perhaps the main roads of the City could have bike lanes but not 50 miles of it. He suggested the NGNA board communicate to the councilors on that.
3. Tim Murphy, CEO of Bridgeway informed about what they do. There are treatment centers, a 24/7 open detox outpatient center which helps the addicted. He said if someone calls in for help, he should be taken care of right away and not make any appointments for later because later will not happen. With these people, the present is the only way. He talked about how other Bridgeway recovery places will all move to one location on Front Street NE. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a tour of their new plaza and a community celebration and they will serve cake on May 19th, 2022, at 3 p.m. at 750 Front Street NE, Salem, OR 97301.
4. Gretchen Bennett was the next speaker. She updated us on what is going on around Salem. She responded to questions and was very good about carefully explaining the processes that take to handle the homeless situation. She talked about Haven and even telephoned them in San Antonio, TX and got some ideas. At that point, Bayard, Chair, informed how the City, Nonprofits, County, State all conglomerated to make this a successful operation. At first the nonprofits resisted but they concluded that since nothing else was working, they decided this was the way to go. Once they were together, they did away with redundancies to smoothen the operation. They also recommended each other based on their expertise. The unmanaged homeless were put into a courtyard where they were offered help, and received food and showers and

treatment anytime they wanted. They still could be outdoors and only the ones that wanted help were given assistance. Gradually this became a successful operation and became one for 12 years, based on love.

5. Bayard brought up the tabled subjects of Gang Task Force. The police eliminated it and when we talked last to Chief Womack, he said he didn't know if the shootings were gang related or not. Bayard said Kaethe checked out the precincts and she was told at that time that one of the respite locations are in South Salem, one downtown and then the Police Station in South Salem. Michael
6. meeting adjourned around 7:45 p.m.
7. The next meeting will be May 19th at 6 p.m. at the North Annex of Northgate Wesleyan Church.

Note, on-line voting:

- Voted Bill Berry in as Board Member on March 25, 2022
- Voted for Letter to City Council Members re solutions for unmanaged homeless people to be sent from NGNA Board members completed April 11, 2022
- Voted on 4/11/22 to make a survey and/or petitions for Pollinator Plants to be planted at Northgate and Fisher Parks to encourage Monarch Butterflies.
- Voted Phyllis Abbott-Cabbotta in as Board Member on April 22, 2022
- Voted for 2nd Letter to City Councilors re street bumps on April 24, 2022