

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

General Meeting June 2, 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>	TERESA JOSLIN	<i>P</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>P</i>
TIM FRANCE	<i>P</i>	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	<i>P</i>	MARISSA THEVE	<i>P</i>
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	<i>E</i>	NICK MASELLI	<i>P</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>P</i>
LOLA HACKETT	<i>E</i>	SUSAN NAPACK	<i>P</i>		

Others present: Ashley Dalen, Megan Stevens, Anne Colao, Virginia Hixon, Laura Herrmann, Virginia Stapleton, Scott Munford, Luke Glaze, J. Keniston, and Carol DeCoursey.

Paul made a motion that ***“We approve the May minutes as submitted.”*** Cynthia seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Tim reported that, as of just a few days ago, 300 solar panels have been installed on the roof of Broadway Commons.
- Susan hosted the GNA booth at the Grant Community School Kermes on May 19th. She thought it was a great event and she met many wonderful people.
- Sam said two of North Salem High School’s track stars won awards at the state meet.
- Paul reported that the new Winter Street sidewalks are fantastic – he came that way to the meeting to check them out.
- Mark said that there was a “garage” sale at Columbus Hall last weekend. There is still a baby grand available – is anyone is interested.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- There has been a red painted “503” on the new structure on the south side of the State Archives building that has been there for a long time.
- Some good news - 2 new neighbors have just moved in near the Evergreen Church site. The bad news - they had their bike stolen.

#4 Officer Report

Officer Keniston reported that the Salem Police Department is testing and evaluating their third set of body cameras. Selection of the model they will use will be next and then we will start seeing officers wearing the body-cams. When an officer arrives at a situation, they will notify individuals, as soon as possible, that they are recording the encounter.

The Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police are supporting a car-care program. It will allow officers to offer vouchers to those they stop who cannot afford to make the repairs of the broken or missing items on their cars that prompted the stop. Vouchers are also available at the Salem Police Department.

The Homeless Camps team has been funded for 1-year. Two police officers will participate. If it becomes a permanent program, two new officers will be hired. The aim is to develop relationships with other agencies and non-profits who interact with this population.

The Police Department is accepting old cell phones and chargers to provide to stalking and assault victims. Make sure they have been factory reset and that all private information has been wiped. Phones with 3G are okay because they can still reach 911 if they are charged – no plan is required.

On June 27th, there will be a Block Party at the Gilbert House from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

#5 Councilor Report

Virginia reported:

- Our Salem will have a Public Hearing at City Council on June 13th.
- The upcoming bond measure has been the subject of a public survey. A committee meeting on June 10th will discuss the survey's information and move forward. The information will go to City Council on June 13th. One of the items that Virginia is supporting is protected bike lanes.
- The interviews for city manager have narrowed the pool down to three finalists. The list is still private. All three will visit Salem on June 14th. There will be a Town Hall meeting that evening at 6:00 pm. On June 15th, there will be a breakfast with Council and a business meeting. On June 20th to the 24th, Councilor Hoy and Stapleton will travel to each of the three cities from which the candidates come. They will interview co-workers and citizens that the candidates worked with, and for.
- Tina asked about progress with the emergency protocol for apartments discussions. Virginia said she is meeting with Representative Hoy tomorrow, June 3rd, to work on a statewide program.
- "Salem Bike Vision" is working towards establishing protected bike lanes in the heart of the city.

#6 International Dark Sky / Light Pollution

Marissa presented an informational PowerPoint presentation on the different aspects of light pollution and how it affects lives in obvious and subtle ways: light shining into homes, especially bedrooms during sleeping hours; bright light that creates deep shadows and prevents seeing anything outside the light pool; blinding glare; preventing views of the night sky; and, affecting the migration of wildlife. She walked us through some of the technical terms used when describing light, such as lumens that define brightness, and Kelvin which defines the temperature and "color" of the light, from warm and yellowish to bright blue. Light pollution affects livability and the volume of pollution is trending up. The solutions include: determine if the light is useful and targeted; use the minimum level needed to be affective; and, control it with a timer or sensor. The city of Salem has 13,000 street lights. The downtown "acorn" lights could be retrofitted to minimize light pollution by installing shades so the light beams are directed down. Salem has posted an online notice about turning off lights this month to help migrating birds. It was suggested that Grant neighborhood could volunteer to be in a pilot program for reducing light pollution. The city could also tighten up its code to control "light trespass" across private property and lower the limits designated as too bright.

#7 Street Painting

Susan reported that the 1st reading at City Council of the Ordinance to change the city's code that will allow street painting was on May 23rd. The 2nd reading, and potential vote to adopt, will occur on June 13th. Susan provided comments to the Council on behalf of the Grant Neighborhood Association. Laura Herrmann, said that the July 4th weekend is still scheduled for completing the painting. Priming will be on Saturday with the final colors on Sunday. The drying time is pretty quick. A celebration will be held for all to attend on the 4th. City personnel will be invited. The next immediate step is to contact the 12 landowners that are adjacent to the paint site. Letters will be sent out. 60% of them have to approve the project. No response is considered an approval. There will be many volunteer jobs: the Little Library on the southwest corner of the intersection will get some maintenance; barricades will need to be put up; folks with orange vests will intercept cars and redirect them from the paint area; and, there will be activities for kids that are too small to work on the street painting, including a table to paint rocks. Miller Paint, on Lancaster Drive, will work with us on getting the special paint that has grit imbedded in it and the costs for 5-gallon buckets of paint and other supplies, will be discounted. We will need buckets, pans, and rollers. Susan moved that ***"Grant Neighborhood Association use communication funds to support the street painting project and the following Block Party celebration up to a maximum of \$350.00."*** Tina seconded the motion. Sam commented that N²

may also have some money that can be donated in support of this effort. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Mark).

#8 Grant Park Improvements

Paul brought information about a proposal to improve Grant Park. With its small footprint, the Salem Parks Master Plan limits the amenities that it will allow in our park. If it was being constructed today, our park would not be permitted to have the existing ball field. However, we can improve what is there. Sources of funding include: the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) under the parks section; the Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF); and, the Salem Parks Foundation (SPF). Paul has submitted a request to the CIP for replacement of the chain-link fencing, which is badly deformed, deteriorated, and rusty, and for replacement of the surface at the playground along Cottage Street. This play area has earned the nickname “Bug Bite Playground” due to the great number of insects which emerge in the spring from the current surface of bark chips – making it a less popular place to play. The Our Salem Plan has increased the allowed density in the Grant Neighborhood, but no additional land for public parks has been identified. The fencing would be replaced with black vinyl cover chain-link fencing with a concrete foundation to prevent grass from growing into it. The playground surface would be a rubberized safety surface like the one at the Winter Street playground on the school property.

Additionally, an outdoor classroom space, ala that at Woodmansee Park in south Salem, would be added at the south end of the Cottage Street play area. This would consist of tree trunk sections placed for chairs for the students and teacher. The estimated cost that Paul arrived at for all of the items is \$191,425. He has sent the information to the City Council for the Bond work they are proposing and he will also send it to all of the other funding sources. Paul moved that the ***“Grant Neighborhood Association support the proposal to re-fence the entire Grant Park, replace the bark chips in the Cottage Street Playground area with a rubber safety base, and create an outdoor classroom at the south end of the Cottage Street play area.”*** Tina seconded the motion. Laura commented that we need to talk with the school staff about the fencing replacement and discuss the timeline with them. Aaron suggested including photographs that show the current condition of the fencing. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#9 Columbus Hall

Luke Glaze joined us to update his current situation with developing Columbus Hall at Cottage and Shipping streets. The property is zoned single family and the Hall is an allowed use within that zone as a non-profit membership organization. Any other use would require land use changes. Therefore, the venue option he was considering earlier, is no good. It requires parking standards that cannot be met on site. Some neighbors that he visited with were OK with a venue development, and some were concerned. It would result in a lot more activity as a for-profit venue, versus how it has been used historically. He has settled on transforming it into residences. The 2 stories will have 6 units on each floor. The second floor has really high ceilings which can accommodate loft areas in those units. The spaces will have open floor plans with light from one wall of windows. The east side of the lot, behind the structure will be a shared green space. The bottom of the building will be tiled up to the bottom of the windows. A few windows will be added, but he is striving towards minimal changes to the existing art deco exterior. A neighbor asked about the range of rental costs, but Luke said he did not know that yet. Ideally, he would like to start work on it in about 6 months. He will return to our August 4th meeting to keep us updated.

#10 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola was not present
 - CERT class is scheduled to resume in September.
- Communications/Outreach – Susan reported:

- Saturday Market booths will be on June 18th and July 23rd. Volunteers are needed for setup, staffing, and breakdown.
 - She has reconnected with the Boys & Girls Club and invited them to join our monthly meetings.
 - For National Night Out on August 2nd, we will not be joining with Keg & Barrel as occurred last year. Instead, we are encouraging small, local get-togethers.
 - Susan asked about meeting in July. Paul moved that **“We cancel our July meeting.”** Tim seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
 - Regarding the proposed locations for the four historic sign toppers that have been ordered, Paul expressed concern about the ability to place them at the D Street and Summer Street intersection. The fully controlled intersection, with high level traffic light supports, lacks the short street sign posts that accommodate these signs. He moved that **“Grant Neighborhood Association recommend that the signs be moved west, to the next closest intersection along D Street that has the appropriate posts for the interpretive signs.”** Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Tina).
- Land Use Updates - Paul had no report this evening.
 - North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam had no report this evening.

#9 Other Business

Nothing was brought forth

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright

Additional Action:

Due to the lack of a July meeting, on June 15th, Susan emailed to the Board a summary of her communication outreach activities. She included a proposal, based on comments from Paul at a previous GNA meeting, to print stickers with the GNA logo and website URL. Susan made a motion that **“GNA spend \$70 from our communications budget to order the stickers in time to be able to hand them out at the Street Painting event.”** Teresa Joslin seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed.