

**East Lancaster Neighborhood Association  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2022**

Attendance: Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Pastor Terry Mott, Mike Sim, Pat Mick,  
Via Zoom: Susann Kaltwasser, Chuck Westbrook, Seth Koetke, Heidi Miller, Sgt. Burke (Salem Police)

**Introductions/Approval of Minutes**

Sue distributed copies of the May 2022 minutes for review. At the end of the meeting Mike moved approval with a spelling correction. Terry seconded and all approved the motion.

**Police Officer Report** - Sgt. Burke talked about body cameras. He said that they would be in service around December. It has taken time to test out different vendors and develop a contract. Now they are waiting for delivery. Several new programs are being initiated to help with freeing up officer time. One is 'Car Care' where officers can give a driver a voucher to get minor vehicle issues fixed rather than issuing citations. The funds come from the Police Association through a grant. They cover things like head and tail lights or side mirrors. The police area also starting more community outreach through activities like Cookie with a Cop in some parks, ride alongs, Coffee with a Cop, and Fun Fridays in Highland Park this summer. The department is collecting working cellphones for use by victims of abuse so they can call for help. National Night Out is August 2nd. Register with the police department and perhaps an officer or fire department can send a vehicle.

The City is creating a "Homeless Clean Up Team" to help with illegal camps. It will consist of two police officers, two Public Works staff and perhaps use some homeless people as workers. To report a problem use the on line report form and the information will be sent to the Team for a response.

**City Councilor Report** - Chris Hoy talked about the recent elections. Ward 4 is undecided and so continues to the November ballot. He was elected mayor. Right now all those elected are going through a training period. Some have not have any actual experience with council so have a lot to learn quickly.

The former Nordstrom property is being rebuilt. The building was demolished and the skybridge removed. The new project will be an apartment building. The City is negotiation a tax reduction for some low-income units. They want at least 10% of the apartments to be affordable rates. The City is also working on purchasing property for another low-income apartment complex across from Fred Meyer on south Commercial. It will provide wrap-around services to former homeless people.

The Council approved the outline for a bond measure for \$300 million to be on the November ballot. It will be phased in over 10 years and replace existing bonds, so that taxes will not increase. Susann asked about ambulance services. He said he is looking into a different service model.

**Mid-Willamette Homeless Alliance** - Update - Chris Hoy gave a comprehensive overview of the efforts to provide more housing and shelters. In the last 5 years the Homeless Alliance has applied for and received many grant funds through HUD, and state. They developed an assessment tool that allows all member agencies and cities to report to a common database. This way they can better assess local needs.

Opened Redwood Crossing which has 37 units with full services and Sequoia Crossing which will have 60 units. Yaquina Hall on Center is in process but the problem is electricity. It will have up to 52 residents with services. Part of the problem is that there are not enough mental health providers to address the needs. Legislation is being worked on to provide more funding.

The City is also working on getting private development to build low-income housing. The one on Center Street near Park Street have 15% low income housing within the other units. There are other projects in the works, but it is a slow process. Cottage Clusters on Market being provided by United Way. They will rent cottages for \$450 a month. Also the City has the Safe Park program that allows people to park at local churches. Up to 6 per location where people can live in their cars and are provided restrooms and water. There are 13 locations in Salem. Micro shelter communities are being developed, but they want 6 ultimately. "Project Turn-key" is funded by the Legislature to buy older motels to use as homeless shelters. The motel on Hawthorne is now open for fire victims, but soon will have more rooms available to homeless. Arches Inn will eventually have more units. Hope and Safety has opened a motel for domestic violence victims.

The Navigation Center on Mission and 22nd will be open this fall. It will be a low-barrier shelter which allows people who have pets, partners or may have substance issues, will provide services and counseling on how to get out of homelessness.

Our area has about 1800 to 2500 people without shelter. Chronic homeless rate in Marion Polk counties is twice the rate of the nation. 56% of our homeless are chronic. And the majority are women. Most are victims of abuse. Oregon is #1 in the country for opioid and amphetamine abuse and #50 in access to treatment.

Alliance has received a \$5.5 million grant for housing and \$3.7 grant from HUD to work on homeless youth. Now have a Youth Council.

How can you help? Donate to agencies. Volunteer with agencies or lobby the Legislature. Don't take food and stuff to the camps. Take to local non-profits that know what is needed and how to distribute it safely.

Employment opportunities for the homeless through the City to help clean up parks and around the city. This helps them get income as well as work experience. Will be run through a non-profit.

**Center 50+** - Heidi Miller talked about the outreach programs at the senior center. They have a new program called Villages Network. Where older citizens can connect with others to be independent and connects. To create a network that includes all ages engaging together for help and resources so they can remain at home. They have several programs that go out to the community. "Well Van" that does presentations and Repair services where retired people do yard work, small repairs, daily routines like get mail or take medicines. But may just be someone who will talk with them daily to see if they are need something. Susann suggested that there be more discussion with Heidi to perhaps coordinate more activities.

## **Committee Reports**

### **a. Land Use - Panda Express at Weathers/Lancaster**

Representative, Seth Koetke, for Panda Express explained that they were looking at the property in front of Willamette Training Academy (old Toys R Us store) for a new outlet. Traffic and circulation within the site was discussed. Two driveways would be closed. One is on Weathers and one on Lancaster. Concern was expressed about parking on street due to the overflow from Olive Garden Restaurant across the street and impacts on parking for the Academy.

Bus stop at Willamette Training Academy - Susann explained that there is a proposal for a bus stop on the campus of the school. It is to the south of the building. It will have minimum impact on the current parking lot. However, it was noted that the closure of the gate through to Academy Square was causing problems with through traffic that can no longer use the traffic light for exit onto Lancaster. People must use Weathers and the turn on to Lancaster to go south is very difficult and dangerous.

Cottage Clusters parking - Susann reported that since this development codes there are no parking requirements. So the few proposed is an added benefit because not required. She will ask United Way to the August meeting for an update.

- b. Traffic - no report
- c. Parks - no report

ELNA Board election - The current slate of members were nominated with the exception of Chesta Bauer and Lynette Horton who resigned. Both moved. Susann moved approval and Mary seconded it. The membership was approved by unanimous vote.

Neighborhood Concerns: Removal of campaign signs within 30 days from election inside the city limits. Pat Mick mentioned noise from construction next to her mobile home park. Susann said that she could send an email of concern regarding the construction noise and dust. Wants the fence put up sooner than planned.

No meeting in July unless there is an important issue. Also, there is interest in having a board potluck this summer. Susann will do a survey about when.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.