

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2022

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes:

NESCA Chair Mike Beringer opened the meeting at 7 PM and welcomed all in attendance. A motion was made to approve the June 21st meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as provided by email.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: No report

3. City Councilor's Report: Chris Hoy (unable to attend this evening)

3. City Councilor's Report: Virginia Stapleton

Virginia said she has been busy with vacation so missed the last Council meeting, but she did have updates to share. Council had felt they were finally getting some loose ends tied up and can now go forward:

- The issue of how to handle non-profit organization requests for discounts from the city when using city facilities has been a rather awkward process in the past and did not seem an equitable way to handle requests. Going forward there will be a 20% discount for all 501c3 organizations.
- The Eco Ball is now being put forward for the National Registry of historical locations.
- Been working on determining the design for the City flag. A part of the emblem will contain a cherry blossom.
- The Our Salem Comprehensive Plan was before Council a couple of meetings ago and was back at the last meeting where it was passed. There is one item that needs more work due to a legal aspect and then it will be completely done.
- Keith Staley, from Olympia, WA will be Salem's new City Manager. He has 30 years of working in a government setting in a capital city which should bring needed experience to Salem. He is expected to be on staff by mid-September. He will be coming to Salem with the most and deepest experience in many topics that are important to our city, including climate crises and homeless issues. He was well-known for his ability to hire well and retain people on staff and is very employee-oriented which is so important for helping a city move forward.
- The Portland Road micro shelter will be moving to Center Street soon. No actual date is currently available.
- A buffered bike lane on Capital from Center Street north to Market Street, taking the street from three car lanes down to two, will be on the Consent Calendar for Monday's Council meeting. Virginia has been advocating for this for quite some time and is happy to see that it is moving forward.

4. Guest Speaker: Pamela Short, State Co-ed Softball League Administrator

Pamela introduced herself and told attendees that she has been playing in this recreational league for 25 years, playing on the D Street Field. Currently there are ten teams playing on the field along with a couple of Lacrosse teams. Her goal for the league is strictly for recreation and for families to come and have a good time, specifically kids ages twelve and up. Her main reason for joining the meeting this evening was to learn what the plans, if any, are in line for the park. The teams each pay an \$80 fee which supports the league and pays for the equipment (balls, etc.) as well for the port-a-potty. She keeps a lock box, locked to the backstop, with the equipment. At the end of the year, she does a big BBQ and pays for food from the remaining funds. There is only the one backstop on the east side of the park and the league would very much like to have one on the west end if possible. It would also be nice if there were designated infield for each field. It was suggested that Pam should talk with the City Parks Department, but she said she is reluctant to do so as if it becomes more regulated, they will be required to pay to use the facilities like at Wallace Marine and Geer Park. The league has been using the field, with the permissions of DAS and without charge, for many years. She is concerned that any charges would cause them to have to disband the league. Councilor Stapleton will reach out to Parks to see what might be done about getting a port-a-potty. Pam was asked to send a "wish list" to Mike, Teri, and/or Marilyn that can be discussed. Marilyn mentioned that NESCA might be able to put in a grant request next year with Salem Parks Foundation to secure a backstop for the west field, not for Pam's league but for the park, possibly a removable one that can be dismantled at the end of the season and stored. Marilyn also mentioned she has spoken to Parks about adding an additional garbage can and one is scheduled to be installed on 25th near the current backstop.

There was a mention made about filling the center of the field with soil to level it out with the rest of the field. Apparently, however, that area has actually been determined to be a wetland area so it is doubtful that any work will be done in that area of the park. Pam mentioned that the area in question is not an issue with the softball league. There are areas closer in the outfield portion of the playing area that do need some fill to eliminate holes in the ground which could cause injury to the players. It was also mentioned that the park is a part of the Historic designation and other major changes would likely not be approved.

Gary Pullman was approached by someone who was concerned about the sidewalks cutting into the ballfield areas. Pam said they are absolutely not bothering anything,

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Land Use (no report) *Ian Johnson*
- b. Transportation: (no report) *Julie Redden*
- c. Parks

Eli was unable to attending this evening, but Mark Neuman, Marilyn Moritz, and Mike Beringer all spoke on various matters.

- City Parks Department is looking to address safety issues related to homeless issues at Geer Park.
- Mark Neuman (whose property backs up to the park) said things are better since the homeless are gone. One of the most recently issues is that lately they have been hearing motorized vehicles at night, on the trails. Mark said he did not know if they are go-carts, mini-bikes, or motorcycles, just that they are motorized vehicles. He also has seen someone riding a motorcycle on the walk path that circles the park. Mike mentioned they have been seeing tire tracks on the new soccer where someone has been doing a lot of racing around and tearing up the grass.
- Marilyn Moritz will call Parks Operations to see if they can install cameras on the walk path and on the soccer field to see if they can determine who is doing this.
- Mike talked about the new pump track that, unless you are a biker who uses the track, no one would know it is there. There is no signage, just a path that leads up to it. Just wondering why, with all the money put into the park, there is not any signage showing where that track is located.

d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*

- School supplies drive is beginning and will continue through the end of August. Salem First Church of the Nazarene will again be providing supplies to Hoover parents, but in a slightly different way than last year. The church will provide filled backpacks for pick at the church. Remaining backpacks will be set aside for the three schools in their area. Teri has been assured that she can pick up those set aside for Hoover to add to the school supplies collected by NESCA. The school supplies list will be included as an attachment to the email that distributes these minutes.

e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*

- More trees are being planted – the more the better. Not too many currently, but a few at Brown Road Park, Englewood Park, and Bush Park
- On-going Mill Creek clean up project
- There will be a work party spreading chips at Englewood Park on Saturday from 9 AM – 12 PM.

f. North Campus (no report)

6. Other Business:

- Mike introduced Rev. Don Eck, pastor of the Salem Spirit of Life Community Church on Hawthorne near Center Street. Rev. Eck noticed the recent team of NESCA volunteers doing our street cleaning and introduced himself. He attended this evening's meeting to find out more about NESCA. As a neighbor, Mike invited him to attend at any time. Teri Lupoli has added his contact information to the NESCA distribution list for all communications.
- National Night Out
 - Tuesday, August 2, at Mike and Lucy Beringer's on Illinois Court. 6 PM
 - Hotdogs will be on the grill
 - Drinks and desserts

- Bring potluck (main dish, salad, or desert) and your own chair
 - Councilors Hoy and Stapleton will try to be there
 - Signed up for a visit by Salem Fire and Police departments
 - Helium balloons will be available for kids
- Lansing Neighborhood Association
 - Word was received that Lansing NA is having problems with getting people to their meetings and to be on their board. Mike was told that it is possible the NA may fold for lack of participation. It has been suggested that NESCA may want to absorb that area as a part of our boundaries. Ken Gettys put forth the idea that, should the two merge, we might want to consider expanding our board and doing what we can do ensure some of the additions are Hispanic to better serve that population. Mike asked everyone to think about this and send any thoughts to him. Initial reaction is that mentoring the group to help them back to a working group might be in everyone's best interest, as opposed to increasing the size of NESCA by such a large area. This topic will be added to the Agenda for the August 16th meeting.
- Mike ran into Greg Walsh (Salem City Emergency Manager) at City Hall, and they discussed CERT. He told Mike the NESCA CERT Cache has been restocked and has a new communications radio. Mike was recertified for five years more years as a CERT representative for this area.
- Mike spoke with Lynn Takata (NEN) with the thought to begin communications again with NEN now that the D Street Park issue has been resolved.
- Street Painting
 - Marilyn wanted to let Virginia know she has seen the street painting done in the Grant neighborhood (on the intersection of Cottage and Belmont) and that it is truly amazing. It would be wonderful if NESCA could produce a plan to do the same.
 - Virginia said she had a meeting with Travel Salem and let them know what was going on with the street painting. They were so excited about this project they have said they will pay for all supplies for the project as well as pay for a neighborhood BBQ when the project is finished for ANY neighborhood that wants to put one in. The Grant neighborhood spent about \$1,000 for all the supplies including the BBQ. Travel Salem is interested in adding a public "trail" to showcase all the city art, so they are willing to pay for the projects, which is quite fantastic news for everyone!
 - Anyone who is a muralist can produce a design. There are not a lot of rules except that it must be on a residential street, it cannot have words, trademarked items, and must be away from stop sign lines, crosswalks, etc. There is a specific type of paint that must be used. Virginia has asked Grant to come up with a "lessons learned" list that will be put on the city's website for others who may be interested in doing a mural.
 - Virginia said Travel Salem has purchased the Chase Building and will be remodeling it for their new home. She will contact them about a Salem city map,

Website Information:

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-concerns-about-homeslessness.aspx>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homeslessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
 - [503-371-4262](tel:503-371-4262) Graffiti Response team
- The link for the crime statistics: www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats

There being no further business, Mike thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on August 16th beginning at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The link will also be available on the city website.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Marilyn Moritz*, Teri Lupoli*, Lynn Cardiff*, Ken Gettys*, Gary Pullman*, Jim Lupoli, Stacey Vieyra-Braendle, Bob Braendle, Virginia Stapleton City Counselor, Pam Short, Don Eck

*NESCA Board Members