

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

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

Irma Dowd, City of Salem Neighborhood Associations Coordinator, opened the meeting in the absence of NESCA Chair Mike Beringer. Vice Chair Marilyn Moritz welcomed neighbors and guests and all in attendance introduced themselves. Vice Chair asked for a motion to approve the May 17th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as provided by email.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Grant Davis

- Body Cams
 - Still being tested, nearing the evaluation stage, and completion. Three brands are being tested: Motorola, GTAC, and AXON. There is no hard timeline for completion.
- Car Care Program
 - A program has been set up allowing police officers to provide vouchers to motorists to assist with repairs for broken or defective vehicle equipment. The program will be started in the next few weeks.
- Domestic Violence Response Team
 - The team needs more old cell phones. Even when not set up with a cell provider, old phones can still be used to make emergency calls. If donating, reset to factory settings to ensure that no personal information is still visible. Phones can be taken to the front desk at the Salem Police Department for donation.
- Community Engagement Section
 - A “block party” will be held at Gilbert House on June 27th from 10 AM to 2 PM
 - “Fun Fridays” will be participating in the Highland Northgate neighborhood Family Council for Fun in July.
 - Applications are now being taken for the “ride along” with police officers. If interested, people should sign up on the Salem PD website.
 - “Coffee with a Cop” events are being shared through social media, neighborhood associations, and the Salem PD website.
 - National Night Out is on August 2nd. Groups having parties are encouraged to sign up to have a police officer at their gathering. Information at: cityofsalem.net\NNO
- Homeless Cleanup Team
 - The Homeless Camp Cleanup Team consists of staff from Public Works, The City Manager’s Office, and the Police Department. It will work to address issues regarding unlawful camping, RVs on streets and tent camping. The group is funded for a year through the Police Department. Two officers from patrol have been dedicated to being a part of the team and they are currently in training for crisis intervention and are developing connections and relationships with other city staff, non-profit organizations and those who are unsheltered. They should be on board by the end of the month. If more funds become available, this could become permanent for the two officers and SPD would then possibly add two additional officers.
 - If citizens have concerns or immediate needs regarding homelessness, they can call the non-emergency line or 911 if needed. Non-emergency needs can always be directed to the website which is where the team gets their data.
 - The team will assess situations and will notify campers of available resources. Oregon law requires a 72-hour notice for those camping on public property and five days for RVs. Crime maps are updated daily (city wide).
- Staffing
 - Six new positions have been approved, effective in January. It will be some time before they are on the street, likely one to two years. If an officer comes in who is already certified, the timeline would be shorter.

- Question for Sgt Davis: What should be done if someone is sleeping in one's yard? Answer is to call the police department non-emergency number. (503) 588-6123

3.City Councilor's Report: Chris Hoy

- More on the six positions mentioned by Sgt. Davis: The council did authorize those positions, but not until January 2021. These are new positions which are not a part of attempts to fill current open positions. The six positions will be a part of Chief Womak's Community Policing Model.
- The budget was finalized at the last meeting and will be adopted at the next meeting on Monday.
- A bus pass program is going to be instituted for all Salem-Keizer youth for the coming year. This is in partnership with the cities of Keizer and Salem and with Cherriots. The council is hoping to get Marion County also on board. The passes are always good, not just during the school year.
 - Question: are the bus passes also provided for homeless youth? Chris was unsure but will check on this.
- A new safe-park site on Front Street has been approved for 40 RVs. The site will provide wraparound services for campers such as showers, restrooms, access to housing managers and case managers.
- Funds have been approved for communications for Neighborhood Associations. There has been a lot of interest in being able to help Irma Dowd with another staff person, but the Council is unable to do that quite yet.
- The City Manager search has been narrowed from three to two candidates. Chris and Councilor Stapleton will be traveling a bit to meet with previous employers of the candidates. Chris cautioned that it is always possible that a position could be offered, and the candidate might withdraw, or that neither of these two candidates will be offered the position.
- The Our Salem adoption process has started. 26 resident testimonies have been heard but Council had to stop the hearing to attend to other needed business. The process is continued to July when they will be able to ask staff questions. Chris did not think there will be additional opportunities for oral testimony, but the record is still open for written testimony, and it can be emailed to Our Salem.

3.City Councilor's Report: Virginia Stapleton

After missing last month's meeting, Virginia expressed her pleasure at being with everyone at the meeting.

- The Bond measure is moving forward. The project list will be worked on at the Monday meeting and hopefully close up that part of the project and then begin the outreach to the community.
- The Center Street MicroShelter community is moving forward. Council is responding to the judge that had some concerns about the location and more information was provided by the City to the judge at his request. They are hoping to hear positive news on that soon so the project can move forward.
- Library fines are gone!
 - Currently there is no charge for parking, but Virginia was unsure of the reason.
- Bicycle Budget.
 - Working with staff right now, with Chris's help, to sort through the project list of those items that will be included in the bond. Hoping to get money set aside for bike infrastructure, specifically for connecting the existing bike infrastructure and making what we do have more robust.
 - Updating the bicycle infrastructure is challenging and will need to go through the public process to be included in the bond.
 - Completing the Union Street connection is vital to the city and Chris was able to move that forward at the last committee meeting. That will make that connection from the West Salem pedestrian bridge all the way to the 12th Street Promenade.
 - The other item Virginia is working on for the bond measure is the Winter/Maple Bikeway. This has been in the works for nearly 10 years now, so solutions are being considered to get that project completed. That makes another connection from Union Street all the way up to Cherry, to Keizer, and downtown to Chemeketa Street.

- Councilor Hoy said that part of the Our Salem will be updating the transportation plan which will include bicycle infrastructure.

4. Guest Speaker:

Our scheduled guest was to be Eric Swenson, a candidate for Oregon State Senate. However, Mr. Swenson ended his campaign and chose not to attend.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Land Use (no report) *Ian Johnson*
- b. Transportation: (no report) *Julie Redden*
- c. Parks *Eli Brody*
 - Eli reported that Geer and Hoover are looking good.
 - He checked on the D Street Field regarding the concern about the possible wetland area. It has been determined that it IS a wetland. He also learned that the field/park area is considered as *historical property* and apparently there won't be any *planning*. Not much may be done, which is what NESCA has been advocating for a long time.
 - **Street Cleaning: Saturday, July 2, 8:30. Please gather at the north end of the Park & Ride on the corner of Market and Hawthorne Streets NE.** Everyone is invited to join those going to Sassy Onion afterwards for breakfast.
 - Marilyn Moritz report that NESCA will receive a Salem Parks Foundation grant for a kiosk at the D Street Park. We are still waiting on the installation of the benches for Geer Park.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
 - Bonnie Bonham attended this evening as a neighbor and as a representative of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church which is a neighbor of Hoover School. The church also works with the school so it was suggested we could possibly join forces to work.
- e. Watershed (no report) *Gary Pullman*
- f. North Campus
 - Evan Sekulick recently organized a tour of The Jory for members of the NESCA Executive Board. In addition to Evan, others from Neighborly Ventures attended including Annie Andersen, Richard Berger, Jason (Construction Manager), and Kelso (site Maintenance). The tour was very interesting, and everyone was pleased at the way the complex is looking. Marilyn had conversation with Richard who said that Mountain West may be interested in bidding on the remaining North Campus property.

6. Other Business: Irma Dowd

- NA Communication Funds are available to Neighborhood Associations for:
 - National Night Out efforts
 - NESCA will have two events, one at Mike Beringer's on Illinois Court and one on 23rd Street NE at Eli Brody's (a block south of Market Street).
 - Attendance at Quarterly Chairs meeting
 - Submitting Annual Report
 - Submitting Land Use Comments
- National Night Out thoughts
 - The communication funds will reimburse for paper plates, etc.
 - Some groups have parades with kids and/or dogs
 - Drawing competitions are popular with kids
 - The Grant NA has purchased advertising materials and have set up a booth at Saturday Market
 - NESCA has secured the use of the City's helium tank so we can give balloons to the kids at Mike's event.

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-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
 - [503-371-4262 Graffiti Response team](https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx)
- The link for the crime statistics: www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats

There being no further business, Vice Chair Marilyn Moritz thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on July 19th 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:

Marilyn Moritz*, Teri Lupoli*, Lynn Cardiff*, Ken Gettys*, Eli Brody, Gary Pullman, Jim Lupoli, Bonnie Bonham, Stacey Vieyra-Braendle, Bob Braendle, Sgt. Grant Davis Salem PD, Irma Dowd City of Salem, Chris Hoy City Counselor, Virginia Stapleton City Counselor

*NESCA Board Members