



NESCA MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 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 and seconded to approve the August 16th meeting minutes. The motion passed.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Grant Davis

- Community Police Academy: A new session started on September 7th. Another is schedule for the Spring. Each run for 14 weeks plus three Saturdays for full-day sessions. Attendance requirements: One needs to be age 18, have no felony convictions, no misdemeanor convictions in the last 12 months, and must work or live in the city of Salem. One is allowed to miss three sessions and still get a certificate. More information is available on the Salem PD website.
- Halloween Dress Rehearsal: Families can bring their children to the police department in their costumes for a quick lesson on how to stay safe on Halloween. This event provides an opportunity for everyone to visit with officers and other PD employees. This is the first year to be held at the new facility. Often there are over 1,000 people attending this function.
- Body Cams: The department has gone through the testing phase on all three brands and Motorola has been selected as the vendor for the next five-year period. The program will be fully implemented by the end of the calendar year. This includes outfitting all department members as well as ensuring the hiring and training of support staff for the increased workload for digital evidence and public records requests.
- Back to school: With the beginning of school, the traffic enforcement team has been working in school zones where everyone is encouraged to be cautious. Sgt. Davis reminded everyone that the speed limit in school zones is 20 mph when the yellow lights are flashing or when posted as a school zone, during school hours, or when children are present.

Questions/Comment:

- Patty Tipton, Lansing Chair, thanked Salem PD for setting up the speed reader board by Washington and Waldo schools.
- Sgt. Davis wasn't aware of the crime stats for NESCA or any specific crime trends. He suggested people go to the city's website to see crime information for the city and/or for a specific area.
 - The link for the crime statistics: www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats
- Sgt. Davis was asked if Ring app information is provided to the police department. There has been a lot of prowling in the neighborhood lately. Sgt. Davis said if the information is brought to the department's attention and the prowls are not in progress, it would probably be given to the patrol assistance team. If it's not called in, the PD would not have knowledge of it.
- In response to a question about Hoover Park gangs, Sgt. Davis said there was an uptick in gang tagging, etc. earlier this year, but nothing recently and he believes activity has gone down a bit. Marilyn reported that she is in the park about once a week to put information on the kiosk and there is new graffiti nearly every time she's been there.

- Mike asked what types of crimes are being reported currently, what seems to be the main thing right now? As he is in the office mostly, Sgt. Davis said he doesn't have a good feel for what is going on out on the road. He encourages everyone to just consult the crime maps first. Mike asked if the recent shooter in Geer Park had been apprehended. Sgt. Davis believes this is still an on-going investigation.

3.City Councilor's Report: Virginia Stapleton

- The new City Manager is now in Salem. Virginia said it feels like it's going to be a good partnership. She's been taking him around to meet a lot of people and it feels very positive.
- Council Meeting was busy:
 - Housing
 - Wetlands mitigation
 - 20 is Plenty updates
 Other items
- Transit Board meeting was held yesterday (9/19/2022). Virginia reported it was a great meeting.
- The Customer Service Center at City Hall is currently under construction and should be opening in the Spring.
- The MicroShelter housing at 12th and Center is scheduled to be opening at the end of the month. She took a tour of the site and it's a fantastic location. She's really pleased that this is finally opening up and what this will mean to so many people.
- Virginia reported that she attended the ribbon cutting and took another tour of the new YMCA. She said it is a wonderful building with opening planned for the end of the month.
- Virginia toured the Mosaic location which is the "domestic violence hotel", a hotel that has been turned into apartments. She saw all the work they are doing there and it's really incredible. Virginia said she and Chris are hoping to be able to find some funding for their downtown location.

3.City Councilor's Report: Chris Hoy

- Ward 2 Councilor Linda Nishioka has recently joined the Council. She has eight neighborhood associations, so Chris is trying to help her get oriented. It may take her a bit of time before she will be able to join one of NESCA's meetings.
- A welcome gathering for the new City Manager, Keith Stahley, will be held 10/3/2022 at 5:30 in the Police Department's Community Room.
- Salem City Volunteer recognition awards are once again going to be held in person. The next event will be held on October 17th. The doors will open at 5:00 at the Salem Public Library, with the ceremony beginning at 6:00. Chris encouraged NESCA neighbors to be there as one just never knows what might happen!
- Nothing new to report on the condemned apartment complex on Hawthorne at Sunnyview. He will try to get an update for us.
- A new MicroShelter has been authorized for installation on Turner Road at the Church of the Park location. It is designated for residents between the ages of 17-24 and with a grant from the Homeless Alliance, they will be able to provide wraparound services. Breaking that cycle of homelessness as early as possible is extremely important. Chris said having this new facility is very exciting because there have been almost no services for the homeless in this age group.
- Garbage rates will have a slight increase. To help with this increase, there is also an increase in the discount to 20% for those who qualify who are 60+ and/or disabled. Applications are available at the Community Action Agency on Center Street & Medical Center Drive. It is the same qualification process as receiving discounts on water and utility bills. Also approved is a new every-other-week pick up service. The service is for a 20 gallon can at a rate of \$22.10/month (before the discount) for those who do not need more service. This service will be available beginning in January.
- 20 is Plenty Update: (Virginia)
 - This has been looped into what staff is calling "Neighborhood Solutions" which includes:
 - The "20 is Plenty" program
 - The speed bump program
 - Stop signs, looking at how and when to use stop signs to control traffic

- DKS has been hired to review the ideas to see how each will work, cost, etc. and will then report back to City Council.
- Ian Johnson suggested that, when it is appropriate, the city consider the infrastructure regarding road specs for bus corridors. Efficiency problems with buses is very noticeable as a passenger for poorly designed roads when the bus must slow down for all the crumbling roads/potholes in the roads. This is also an issue for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles.
 - Chris said this very topic was brought up at last night's meeting and will be a part of the transportation system plan update coming up in the next year.
- Next month's NESCA meeting will include time for Chris to provide in-depth information on the Bond measure.
- There is new veterans housing being constructed across from the new Y, sponsored by the Y.
- Chris was pleased to attend the "official" ribbon cutting at The Jory apartment complex. He said he and others are very impressed with the community they have built there. They basically have four levels of affordability for their housing:
 - 1. Market rate
 - 2. 80% of median income
 - 3. 60% of median income
 - 4. 40% of median income

Chris said he wanted to thank NESCA for all the amazing work done over the years to help make that project come to fruition. Richard Berger, Neighborly Ventures, did an amazing job working with NESCA on this project and it was an amazing partnership. Chris said it was fun being a part of this project and watch it come together, to see people moving in and making their homes there. The Jory is a beautiful space with a nice community center and a great pool. This is the type of partnerships Chris says the city wants to see with developers, neighbors, and the City. This was truly a wonderful project, and everyone involved should feel proud of the outcome.

- Marilyn suggested that, if appropriate, the city should provide an award of some kind to Neighborly Ventures for this project. Ian reiterated that suggestion, saying that Oregon does have some fairly stringent land-use laws, but will still generally benefit the property owner. In this case, Neighborly Ventures reworked their plan several times and built in a way that possibly cost them some income in order to be good neighbors. Chris said he felt this was a great suggestion and he would see what he might be able to do to facilitate this suggestion. Marilyn suggested that Ian should also be recognized as well for his leadership during the initial stages of this project without which the partnership with Neighborly Ventures would likely never have happened.
- Another takeaway from the ribbon-cutting ceremony at The Jory was comments about this project being done in the heart of the city, not on the fringes or in a more suburban setting. The families moving in have the ability to walk to parks, downtown, schools, shopping, to ride their bikes, or catch a bus. While there are many cars, of course, there are so many other options that help to lessen traffic congestion and are more climate friendly.

4. Guest Speaker: Ruth Snyder, Salem Fire Department

Ruth briefly mentioned her background. She is originally from California and then in Olympia, WA where, coincidentally, her direct boss was Keith Stahley, Salem's new City Manager. She feels that Salem is lucky to have Keith. Salem is one of the only fire districts in the State of Oregon that has a community outreach liaison for wildfire education.

Everyone is aware of the many wildfires around the state, but most recently there was a local wildfire in the Vitae Springs area. This evening's discussion addressed wildfire prevention around our homes.

- "Defensible space" became fairly well known about five years ago with the really bad wildfires in California when firefighters could not get to properties in order to suppress the fires. Homeowners need to create areas around homes to allow firefighter to get close enough to fight any fires. One of the most important things homeowners can do is to develop that defensible space.
- Home Hardening: Most large wildfires are basically wind driven and the most dangerous aspect of the wind is embers. Home Hardening is the method to help prevent the embers embedding into a home. The two most

dangerous places are the roof and the gutters where flying embers will land and possibly combust. Keeping the foliage and pine needles out of gutters and off the roof is a major help in preventing a wildfire from spreading to your home.

- Keep property “lean and green”
 - Keep all dead/dried vegetation cleaned up around the property
 - Do not allow trees to hang over your house
- Neighborhood Associations are the ideal venue for creating a code of compliance with neighbors. The main goal is “fuel load reduction” to eliminate everything possible that would allow a fire to grow.
- Marion-Polk Alert System: Ruth suggested that neighborhood associations stress the importance of the alert system and encourage everyone to sign up.
 - There are “holes” in the system and some work needs to be done. It is a good program, but still needs more work to make more it usable for the public. However, it is best to sign up and not wait for the fixes to the system.
 - <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/safety/emergencies-disaster-preparedness/get-community-alerts>

5. Committee Reports:

a. Land Use

Ian Johnson

- North Campus:
 - The RFPs (Request for Proposal) for the Center Street property still owned by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) are still pending, due to DAS by September 28th.
 - When the RFPs have been received, NESCA will be included on the selection committee. DAS is giving a lot of leeway for the committee to make recommendations. They will be prescreening to determine minimum requirements are met and that the applicants have the money and the ability to do the project. As the property owner, they reserve the right to have the final decision as to what is built there. The process is a good one that will allow NESCA and other groups to take part in that process. We should know more in the next 30 days.
 - Darin Brightman, long-time DAS contact, will be leaving in early October. He has been bringing others into the conversation and Ian has also spoken with them.
- Trees
 - Ian left a message for Milan Davis regarding the three trees slated to be taken down. He said his concern wasn't so much about the trees that are having to come down but the bigger question about what the big plan is, the types of trees being considered for the replacements, etc. Many of the trees are in a “managed decline” situation, so we would be interested to know if they have a plan rather than just dealing with each tree as it comes time to be replaced. He told Milan we would very much like to have that conversation with him.
 - Gary asked if the planting area is a part of the park, which it is not. The park begins on the back side of the sidewalk. The reason Parks is not considering replanting with walnut trees is they don't want to run the risk of the new trees also becoming infected with the beetles. There will be consideration given to the growth pattern of the trees, something with a similar profile, but possibly a bit friendlier with the power lines so they don't get “trimmed” in ways that are harmful to the trees. Part of the reason for some of the walnut trees getting into the condition they are is due to the power company randomly hacking them without regard to the damage they may be inflicting. It was suggested that we stress the desire for “wildlife” trees that will help support the area's wild animals and birds who have relied on the walnuts for nutrition. Mike also has a call in to Milan.

b. Transportation: (no report) *Julie Redden*

c. Parks *Eli Brody*

Eli was unable to attending this evening. Marilyn Moritz provided the following report.

- The new information kiosk for the D Street Park is scheduled to be installed on the corner of D and 25th. It is Marilyn's understanding that the kiosk will be inside the park. She will confirm this information.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
- NESCA participated in the Hoover School back-to-school fair in September. There was a good turnout, with many vendors and information booths. We were able to visit with a lot of our neighbors, get email addresses, and provide informational materials regarding NESCA and who to contact at the City for a variety of problems/questions.
 - School supplies donated by NESCA neighbors, with participation from the Salem First Church of the Nazarene and Hope Station, were delivered to the school on September 9.
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
- The watershed is DRY! Gary has noticed that the rain garden at Hoover has some trees that are drying up. He assumes the school district will have to take care of that. He has also noticed a couple of trees at The Jory seem to have expired this summer. He is continuing with creek cleanup and the group is working on adding bigger chip circles under the oak trees at Bush Park to help retain water and keep them healthier. Marilyn mentioned seeing a sprinkler system that the city put in on B Street NE by Yaquina Hall that waters the new rain gardens and the row of trees. This was also done on 25th Street NE.
 - In response to a question, Gary will check to see if there's a beaver dam in Geer Park near the Monroe Street entrance.

6. Other Business:

- Ken Gettys mentioned a new NESCA neighbor, where the Marion County water department was on the corner of Hawthorne and Monroe. It is now Family Focus Eye Care. He was there today and was pleased with the service and the friendliness of those on staff.
- Evan Sekulik of Neighborly Ventures
 - Re fire prevention: Trying to keep everything green and checking for areas that may need some help.
 - Planter Boxes all have active water meters (all covers were pulled to verify they were active). In extreme weather neighbors may see some drying of plant materials. But if something doesn't look right, bring it to their attention.
 - If some of the trees don't come back, they will be replaced.
 - It was mentioned to Evan that the uplighting in the entry roundabout has not been working for some time. He will check on it as he wasn't aware of this.
- The next NESCA street litter patrol is scheduled for **September 24th**. Meet at 8:30 AM at the north end of the Hawthorne Street Park and Ride (next to the Holiday Inn). Stylish orange vests as well as all litter cleaning supplies are provided.
- Lansing Neighborhood Association, Patty Tipton Chair: Patty has been the Lansing Chair for over 20 years and is needing to step back. Attendance at their meetings is diminishing and members are getting older. Patty mentioned the parks and schools that are within the Lansing borders and some of the issues they are experiencing. She has met with other nearby Neighborhood Associations to begin the process of discussing a merger or other solutions that would support the Lansing Neighborhood Association. She did say that November will be their last meeting for this year but will resume in January 2023. Ken Gettys mentioned that if the groups were to merge and use a "hybrid" meeting format, it would be necessary to have some kind of video projector to show the ZOOM attendees in a larger format so everyone can see who is talking. For the audio, there would need to be a conference room microphone so that everyone can hear. The City has said they have funding to help with re-energizing the Lansing NA. NESCA will discuss this issue with Board members and then decide on how to proceed. We are in early discussions and will hope to have resolution for this soon.

- **Other 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, Mike thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on October 18th 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*, Ian Johnson, Lucy Beringer, Jim Lupoli, Patty Tipton, Chris Hoy Salem City Councilor, Virginia Stapleton Salem City Councilor, Evan Sekulick Neighborly Ventures, Ruth Snyder City of Salem Fire Department

*NESCA Board Members