

SESNA minutes, 5-24-22 meeting/Capital park Wesleyan Church, 7 p.m.

Board Members present: Shannon Priem, Seleste Liyanage, Bill Smaldone, David Tompkins

Guests: Virginia Green and Tom Green, Sarah Webb (ARCHES), Gretchen Bennett (City of Salem, liaison for unsheltered residents); Sgt. Steve Galvin, Salem PD; Officer Anthony Hinkle, Code Compliance; neighbors Dave MacMillan, Burt Eikleberry, Sheilah Murphy, Ray Scott, Melanie Zermer.

7:05 Shannon opened the meeting and there was a round of introductions.

Minutes of April 26 meeting approved unanimously.

Police Report (Sgt. Steve): No major issues in the neighborhood recently. Reminded group that due to staff shortages, lower-level issues reported may not lead to police responding in person. Steve noted the city got 256 calls in the past 12 hours. Top calls deal with domestic violence and mental health.

Code Enforcement (Officer Hinkle): Usual types of cases in the neighborhood. Right now is high grass and weeds season. The tree code was recently amended to add significant trees to those that have to be protected: Oregon White Oak (larger than 20 inches), any other tree larger than 30 inches with a few exceptions. Fines are high so pay attention. (Hinkle will share URL to put on SESNA Website/Facebook). Noted the limit for “tall grass and weeds” is 10 inches. The property at 21st and State, north side, (Glass shop) was reported as needing attention. Hoping to add more code staff help during summer season.

Virginia Green: rundown of neighborhood history and requests for SESNA houses to add to new “virtual tour.” She shared about how central SESNA has been to Salem’s history. SESNA was largely built out by 1912, which is why Virginia began a walking tour of the neighborhood. She gives an overview of the method they used to learn how the neighborhood was platted and evolved. Virginia has done the research on 40 houses going back to the 1890s. These are on the tour. She has created seven neighborhood tours and hopes to finish SESNA’s in July and is seeking houses to research; she shared of list of houses currently on the tour: 1394 Leslie, 1396 Lee, 1590 Lee, 1570 Tripp, 610 18th, 625 19th, 573 19th, 1896 Lee, 2330 Lee, 365 23rd, 345 23rd, 280 Richmond, 379 Richmond, 398 22nd, 420 22nd, 430 22nd, 396 21st, 2093 Mill, 420 20th, 2110 Trade, 239 22nd, 200 22nd, 2245 Ferry, 212 21st, 2090 Ferry, Mill Race Park, 185 19th, Knight Memorial Church, 303 19th, 292 17th, 382 17th Court Apts. She and son Tom are writing stories to add to the tour. Tours are on Shine On Salem website.

Gretchen Bennett & Sarah Webb (ARCHES Homeless Navigation Center on 22nd Street SE, near Mission). The City will contract with ARCHES to manage the building. The Navigation Center follows a national model to find people shelter, services, and eventually permanent houses. It is a place where people get day-to-day services, mental health assistance, and provides transitional shelter that people can use for an extended period (weeks and months). The capacity is from 25-75 depending on the season and funding. Spouses and pets are allowed. Eventually, a mental health clinic will be built and staffed adjacent to it. The project to renovate the current building is now being bid and the hope is to have it under construction by fall. This is almost 100% funded with public money. (Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency). Residents will be chosen based on a “coordinated entry” system, which is a master list of homeless people, scored according to need; those chosen will be among the most vulnerable. Sara is at sara.webb@mwvc.aa.org

The Center Street Micro-Shelter project is now on hold due to litigation. That project has similar principles to the new one described above.

If neighbors wish to help, donations and supplies are welcome. People need EVERYTHING, including small coolers, toiletries, towels, clothes.

City Council Report (Tom Anderson): No report.

Neighborhood Concerns: There is a lot more homeless camping on the lot opposite Mill Race Park. It was noted that neighbors are “patrolling” the area for litter-pick up (Donald, who lives near the park on 19th), and Burt, who lives directly across on Ferry.

Old Business

Our website is now sesna.community. Thanks to Arnaud Verstuyf for getting it set up. We will do an email vote to make sure Shannon and Arnaud are reimbursed for the domain costs, three hours of his time and renewing Zoom contract.

NOTE: A Board vote by email was conducted on May 31; motion was made by Shannon and seconded by Seleste to approve seeking reimbursement for the following:

1. Arnaud Verstuyf paid to change our domain name from sesna.us to sesna.community -- \$30
2. Arnaud V. spent at least three hours of his professional time to re-create the SESNA Website when Google failed to re-establish the sesna.us domain, which took us off-line for months. Because of Google’s lack of follow through, and despite numerous attempts by Irma, Shannon and Arnaud, I think it’s fair to reimburse him for a skill we’d need to hire anyway. I recommend paying \$75 per hour for his level of skill, so we should ask reimbursement for \$225. This is a good deal. I would favor more, since he probably spent more time, but I think this is fair.
3. Shannon renewed our Zoom subscription, at \$150

A quorum voted in favor of motion: Bill S, Seleste L, Marcia H, Dave T, Shannon P.

New Business

Potential Speakers: Urban forester Milan Davis from the City; representative from Salem Hospital about the major expansion and new ER entry. Deb Patterson is set to attend June meeting; also Heidi Miller will share outreach activities planned in SESNA by Center 50-Plus, along with the WOW van.

Next meetings

June 28 (Aldrich Park); July 26 (Lee Park); August 23 (Richmond)

Committee Updates: None

Adjourn: 8:40 p.m.

Motion to approve draft minutes by Seleste on May 31; motion passes (Bill, Arnaud, Marcia, seleste, Shannon voting yes via email).