

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

October 6, 2022

Minutes

Attendance: Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Chris Hoy, Terry Motte, Dan Sheets, Bev Quiring and via Zoom, Susann Kaltwasser, Christine Smith, Rob Romanek and Grant Leffler

Introductions

Sue Fowler opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m. with introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of quorum, we did not vote on the minutes for September. They will be on the agenda for next month.

Police Officer Report - No officer was present.

City Councilor Report - Chris Hoy

The Volunteer Recognition will be on October 17th at 6:30 in Loucks Auditorium. On November ballot will be a \$300 million bond for various projects in Salem. It will not raise the tax rates because it will replace retiring bonds. Projects include two fire stations. One will be north near Portland Road to support the county station near Chemeketa Community College and the other out by the Amazon distribution center to support the industrial park area. The last bond was in 2008 for \$100 million and it is now retired. Another project is to build part of Marine Drive in West Salem that will help relieve some pressure on Wallace Road. Changes to State Street from 12th to 17th Street to add bike lanes. There is funding for the Pringle Creek path to connect to River Front Park. Another project is to continue a bikeway from the Union Street Bridge all the way up to 12th Street. Many pavement repairs in various areas can be made, along with adding more sidewalk repairs. Improvements will be made to Fisher Road, Pringle Road, Davis Road and while it currently says McGilchrist, that will be taken out due to a recent federal grant. Some bridges over creeks will get upgraded and two new library branches. One will be in east Salem and the other out south with the new Transit Center on Commercial Street. The Civic Center would get seismic upgrades and cyber security upgrades to prevent hackers. For parks there will be numerous projects like new equipment and restrooms at Cascade and McKay. Susann said she hears people on Facebook asking how this bond won't raise their taxes and how do they know that the money won't be used for other things. She thinks that there needs to be more information addressing these questions.

The supporters of the bond have a

Friends of Trees - Christine Smith

There is a new project to try to increase the tree canopy in East Salem because it is only a out 17%. The main effort will be from October to April. Neighbors can buy a tree for their yards for \$35 and volunteers will help to do the planting. For low-income the trees are free. There are a number of different kinds of trees to pick from. Anyone can get a free street tree to be put in the right of way as well. ELNA can submit recommended locations for street trees. Susann suggested a strip on Swallow NE where all the street trees have died. She wondered if we had to get permission from the neighbors to recommend a location. While not required it would be recommended to notify the neighbors. For trees in riparian areas there is another program so contact Public Works. Learn more at FriendOfTrees.org/get-a-tree/

Susann asked about removal of dead trees. Staff said perhaps ask Community Development for help with the rules. Mary mentioned the removal of a row of trees along Claggett Creek new Salem Manor. Staff with check and get back to Susann.

Bond Election in November - Susann just added to Councilor Hoy's comments that there was a group that were supporting the bond that had a webpage and it contained some information. However, a more detailed page with complete information is on the City of Salem webpage under bond. It lists out all the projects to be covered in each category so that you can see what is being voted on.

Committee Reports

a. Land Use - Panda Express at Weathers/Lancaster has not completed their application yet. It has numerous questions from staff that need to be resolved before it will be deemed complete. Once it is complete a notice will be sent out and ELNA can comment.

b. Traffic - Speed bumps on Weathers - Susann said that there is a new process for determining where to put speed bumps. She will ask staff to make a presentation at the next meeting.

c. Parks - no report other than that grant applications are now being taken. ELNA has none at this time to submit. But Susann did ask if anyone had taken a picture of the new park bench at Royal Oaks Park.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Shooting again on Ocean Drive is disturbing neighbors. They wonder what is being done. Residents at the Market Street Apartments are upset that some of the parking was taken away with the new addition. Susann said that it was clearly laid out in the public plans that parking would be replaced with a play area. Parking space requirements have been reduced. They need to take their concerns to the owners.

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by Susann Kaltwasser