

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

September 1, 2022

Minutes

Attendance: Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Mike Sim, Clark Hazlett, Chris Hoy, Chris Russel, Chuck Westbrook, Susann Kaltwasser, Bev Quiring, Seth GaRey and Officer Mark Jantz

Sue Fowler opened the meeting at 7:08 with introductions. She shared copies of the minutes from August. After review Chuck Westbrook moved approval, Sue seconded it and all voted approval.

Police Officer Report - Officer Mark Jantz will be our Police representative for now. Police Academy is now back, but it has a new name. It is a 14-week program which gives citizens an overview of what police do and how the different units operate. It includes patrol rides, fire arms, and some training in how to deal with confrontations. Also returning is the Halloween Dress Rehearsal that will take place the last Saturday in October. They usually get 1000 participants so they will likely have to host it at City Hall, not the new police station. Body cameras will be in use by the end of the year. It has taken some time to test different vendors and decided which would provide the proper service for Salem's needs. The vendor is WatchGuard. Coffee with a Cop is also going to begin again in October. Citizens can again sign up to do a ride-along with a police officer. Finally with school starting Officer Jantz reminded people to be more cautious and to obey the school zone speeds.

Mary asked about people parking across the sidewalk so that she is not able to pass. The problem is on Market Street and also she had a problem on Royalty. Since she is in a motorized wheelchair, this is forcing her to have to go out into the street where it is unsafe for her.

Mike also mentioned that people are parking too close to the corner on Plateau and it is becoming unsafe to see on-coming cars.

Code Enforcement Report - Chris Russel gave an update on cases in our area since April. He had 9 abandoned vehicles, 1 health risk case, 1 public nuisance case (storing food outside), and 7 cases of junk/garbage and 11 tall grass/weeds. He reminded us that he not only deals with the issue that was reported, but whatever other issues that he sees. He had to condemn a house on Duchess due to a person who was taking too long to flip a house and it was dangerous.

He said that they are still working on cleaning up camps on Clay Street and on Coral Street behind Big Lots. Weed control has now been changed to a year-round violation, rather than just during the summer.

Regarding parking issues he suggested reporting it on line, or that people contact Code Enforcement 503-588-6421. They are open until 5 p.m., but if after that time or weekend, you can call Public Works Operations at 503-588-6133 Monday - Saturday.

City Councilor Report, Chris Hoy said that a new Councilor had been sworn in for Ward 2 because she had already been elected in May and Councilor Andersen resigned. Also they have hired a new City Manager, Keith Stahley, who is the former assistance City Manager from Olympia Washington. He will start on Sept 12. There is a public meet and greet on October 3.

Safe Park site on Front Street is not going to work out, so they have decided to put it on Turner Road. It will house up to 40 residents ages 18-24 and provide counseling services.

Garbage rates are going up in January. They have increased the relief program to 20% for disabled, seniors on low income. Apply through Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, not the haulers. Also, they will be offering a new service at a reduced rate for 20 gallon cans picked up every other week.

The Council will be having a joint meeting with Cherriots, The Volunteer Recognition is on October 17. Housing construction is strong with many apartments and ADUs since 2020. The City

was just awarded a \$13 million grant to improve McGilchrist Street so this means that other projects can be built with the new bond if it passes.

Willamette Valley Mall - Seth GaRey joined us via Zoom to update on the mall changes. They are transitioning from a traditional mall format to an outside access model. This involves adding smaller buildings around the perimeter of the parking lot. On the south side next to McGraff's they will add Jersey Mikes and Dave's Hot Chicken. In the main building a clothing store is going in where Sears was before. Also they are adding a bookstore and Pandera. Chris Hoy asked about any efforts to deal with internal travel. Mr. GaRey said they are adding sidewalks and will perhaps ask staff for suggestions on how to address the merging traffic at the Center Street entrance. Perhaps the light can be timed better too. Susann asked about long-range plans. He said they are working on more additions but nothing he can announce yet.

Committee Reports

a. Land Use

- Panda Express at Weathers/Lancaster. Susann was not aware of any action, but Chris Hoy said that the application had been filed. A new staff person was assigned to the case and Susann will check to see where it is in the process.
- Hile Lot line adjustment - approved by Marion count so the process for annexation can move forward.
- East Park Estates is well underway with construction. So far there are about 60 houses and most are already occupied. Susann urged members to drive by the area and see how things are developing. Her impression was that it is going to be nice. Mike Sim said he checked on prices and saw that the houses are larger (about 2,000 sf) and in the price range of \$425,000 to \$450,000. This is higher than expected, but Susann said it is reflection of rising materials and wages costs.

b. Traffic - Speed bumps on Weathers - There is a new process being developed for how to identify speed bumps. Susann is going to be talking to staff about a possible presentation.

c. Parks - SPIF grants are available again. Mike Sims said he would try to get a photo of the new bench in Royal Oaks Park.

ELNA Board election of Officers - Current members were asked if they would be will to serve again. After some discussion about roles, Mike Sim moved that the current officers be presented for election. Clark Hazlett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote Sue Fowler and Susann Kaltwasser were elected c0-president; Mary Sarabia was elected as vice president and the secretary position remains open. Susann agreed to take minutes, but she urged board members to consider sharing the job.

Neighborhood Concerns: There was a question about recording our meetings. Susann said she is concerned about space on her laptop for multiple meetings. After some discussion it was moved by Mike Sim to buy an external hard drive. He moved \$100. Clark seconded the motion and all voted their approval. Pastor Terry is doing well after his surgery. Bev said that the construction at Swegle School is going to be delayed by up to 9 months due to delays in getting electrical materials.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.