

HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES 10/13/2022

Present:

Board Members:

Christian Kelly, President

Emily Palmer, Treasurer (via Zoom)

Heather Ames, Secretary

Leigha Gaynair

Salem City Councilor Ward 1 Virginia Stapleton

Salem City Councilor Ward 8 Micki Varney

City of Salem Planning, Austin Ross

City of Salem Public Works, Anthony Camacho

Officer Gould (via Zoom)

Assoc. Members & Guests:

Jacob Arbuckle

Sarah Arbuckle

Rick Koker

Sarah Parkison

Merideth Patterson

Nikki Russell

Officer Gould's report via Zoom:

Motorola Watchguard was selected as vendor for 5 years, with a roll-out of the police vehicle system (? and body cameras) before the end of the calendar year.

The Transparency Portal will have annual reports, budget and crime data, department policies (responses to noise complaints, the unsheltered, etc.) all published there. The site is currently under construction.

K1490 AM is a simple radio app that has a program speaking about upcoming events at 6:30 AM.

Halloween dress rehearsal will be 10/29/2022 from 3-5. This is a safety event geared toward kids. Candy will be handed out and the children will interact with officers.

Leigha Gaynair asked where we are with campers in the neighborhood. Officer Gould responded reports of campers should be addressed to the non-emergency line. There are 2 officers assigned to the program, addressing livability issues such as people living in abandoned cars.

There is a link on the City website to route reports through the city office to the two officers, called "Host."

One resident reported the Bounder vehicle that has been roaming around the neighborhood continues to be visible.

The Oregon School for the Deaf is bringing back its haunted house again this year. A neighbor in that area reported there is no designated parking. Visitors park in the neighborhood, "and everything is good until the last, when there's intoxication, beer cans and squealing tires." Officer Gould stated the neighbor brought up a good point and he'll notify the officer in charge.

Micki Varney, Counsellor for Ward 8 asked why Motorola was chosen.

Officer Gould responded that 10 officers and 4 vendors were used to establish usability with current software. They need cameras that operate 24/7 and work best with their vehicles. Axon vs Motorola came down to cost. Video records 100% of the time. Audio is triggered by event only. Body cameras policy is very detailed.

Virginia Stapleton's report:

The Bond is #1

She supplied handouts on the upcoming Community Improvement Bond 2022, which is on the midterm ballot and reported that included in the bond are fire stations and equipment, streets and sidewalks, affordable housing and library branches, civic center earthquake safety, technology and cybersecurity and park upgrades.

Regarding the airport...the last update was in 2007, when Delta wanted to run flights. Now there are 2 airlines that want to fly 150 seaters to Las Vegas, Reno, San Francisco and the LA basin. They want to be up and running by May 2023. Their plan is to get the TSA in there and the airlines will take care of the rest. The cost to Salem will be between \$4-6 million. Services would start with 1-2 flights on each route. Income for the city would be \$1.5 million, plus jobs. Flights would increase to 8 per week.

Christian Kelly voiced concerns about noise pollution from the airport/flights when the Highland neighborhood already cannot silence the train horns passing through the neighborhood 24/7. Heather Ames commented that as yet, it is unknown whether the Highland neighborhood would be on the flight path for any of these destinations.

Christian Kelly stated the Highland Board would like to be involved with the quarterly Chair Meetings. Leigha Gaynair will represent us.

The cost of the Navigation Center has increased, due to covered furniture expenditures. The hoped-for opening in December has been deferred until January. It's a building on 23rd. South on Mission, people are struggling. Low barrier shelters need birth certificates, there may be DMV trouble, and people need to be in sober programs.

Chris Hoy, Mayor Elect established the 988 program for the suicide hotline for Federal and State programs. Instead of requiring 10 digits to call for help, only 8 are required. Teams go out for crisis intervention. There is no cost to Salem. This is a Federal program.

The General Fund...police and fire take up 60% of funds. Infrastructure is on the November ballot. Park upgrades have never passed a bond before. Cyber security

has been included...The City of Keizer was hacked and had to pay a ransom. Salem wants to avoid that. The Civic Center requires \$39.5 million for a seismic upgrade. In 2023, \$13 million will be required for fire equipment.

Austin Ross, City of Salem Planning gave a presentation on the architecture and mapping of the Highland Neighborhood. Leigha Gaynair had questions before the City publishes an architectural guide. She felt she had been asked to do too much with the mapping and asked to step back, but now felt she had been left out completely.

Anthony Camacho from Public Works reported they want to develop a way to score locations for pedestrian crossings. Costs are a big barrier right now. There are 2 transportation planners and 2 traffic engineers. Environmental concerns are coming under further consideration. They want to target traffic behaviors and unsafe driver behavior. You can still call and ask for a pedestrian crossing. They score the issues. In the Search bar, type in Safer Crossings Program.

Guest Mark Wigg wants to be a County Commissioner. He stated none of the current commissioners are from Salem, and funds aren't distributed equally. He stated Salem gets a pittance, despite 40% of the county being Salem. Keizer got money for a new soccer field; Salem got nothing. He wants to change that ratio.