

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting December 1, 2022 6:15 pm Broadway Commons and online via: Zoom video conference

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT - <i>P</i>	ABSENT - <i>A</i>	EXCUSED - <i>E</i>		
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	<i>P</i>	TINA HANSEN	<i>P</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>E</i>
MARK DECOURSEY	<i>P</i>	TERESA JOSLIN	<i>P</i>	MARISSA THEVE	<i>P</i>
TIM FRANCE	<i>P</i>	NICK MASELLI	<i>E</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>P</i>
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	<i>P</i>	SUSAN NAPACK	<i>P</i>		
LOLA HACKETT	<i>P</i>	SAM SKILLERN	<i>P</i>		

Others present: Ashley Dahlen, Don Vidrio, Cynthia Kavanagh, Shelly Ehenger, Carolin VanOrdin, Carol DeCoursey, Scott Munford, Virginia Stapleton, Isaac Stapleton, and one child.

Lola moved that ***“We approve the November minutes with the correction listed below.”*** Paul seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Corrections:

#8 Board Member Reports

CERT

CORRECT: CERT classes beginning in January will last through February 28th when the mock disaster drill is scheduled.

TO READ: CERT classes beginning on January 10th will last through **January** 28th when the mock disaster drill is scheduled.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Sam reported that the North Salem High School football team lost to Westview High School for the Columbia Cup. This was the farthest they had gone in the season for a long time. The freshman football team went undefeated this year.
- Teresa updated us on the changes at Salem Clinic. The old US Bank building on the “Y” between Capitol & Summer streets, will not become the Urgent Care space. Instead, it will be the Clinic’s call center.
- Regarding our discussion in October concerning underground communication lines being installed in the neighborhood, Lola said that they received a message from Comcast that those lines were being installed in her area.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- None were brought forward.

#4 Officer’s Report

Don Vidrio was present. He has been with the Salem Police Dept. since 2008, but this is his first visit to a Grant Neighborhood Association meeting. The SPD Toy Drive is running from November 28th thru December 16th. New and unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the SPD, 333 Division Street NE, or at Cycle Country, 4764 Portland Road NE. Wrapping paper and tape are also needed. Fatal vehicle/pedestrian crashes were up in 2022. Be extra vigilant in dark and stormy weather. The department is still not fully staffed with police officers due to a shortage of applicants.

#5 Councilor Report

Virginia reported:

- City Council (CC) has had a busy cycle with meetings for five Mondays in a row.

- CC meeting on Nov 28th approved an exemption for the grant limit in the Downtown Urban Renewal District for the old Whitlocks Sewing & Vacuum site that is going to be renovated with business space below and housing above.
- Work is being done to change the code for public murals. The Oregon Cherry Growers plant on Woodrow Street NE has a large, beautiful, mural on their building, but they need part of it to be on some tank structures. The current code does not allow “3-D” murals and the round tanks are defined as such. That prohibition is proposed to be changed.
- An extension was passed on the emergency declaration dealing with the unsheltered that will allow it to continue through December 2023.
- CC will be back to meeting in person beginning January 9th.
- There was a technical error in the November bond measure language on the ballots. It was missing the last sentence in the measure language, which was critical. The city will request a judicial review. If the review issued is an “OK”, implementation of the measure will go forward. If it is not, the measure will go back to the voters in May.
- Public Works Director, Peter Fernandez, P.E., is retiring in January. Brian Martin, P.E., will fill the interim role. A nationwide search will be conducted for a replacement.
- Real reindeer will be at Riverfront Park on Friday, December 2nd, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in conjunction with the Tree Lighting ceremony.
- The final leaf haul opportunity will be December 10th.
- The downtown block on Commercial Street, where the old Union Gospel Mission was located, is being demolished. New development will include businesses on the ground floor and workforce housing on the upper floors.
- The Navigation Center for the homeless, will be open in February on 22nd Street SE. No manager has been determined, yet. A lot of agencies will have a presence in the building, helping with documents, etc. There will also be a wing that will be a low barrier shelter. They are looking at a program that would issue vouchers for RV septic dumping to prevent illegal dumping.
- A housing terminology presentation will be made to CC. In the next 20 years, Salem will be 11,000 affordable units short of demand. The growth is not a result of people moving here but, rather, the natural growth from families already here.
- Requiring an emergency response plan for apartments is likely a 5-6-year process. It will make affordable housing more expensive. Making the change will involve amending the State Building Code. Virginia recommended that folks share their personal stories with legislators and housing advocates to generate interest.

#6 DevNW – Evergreen Church, Update and Discussion

Paul updated us on what is happening. The city required the establishment of a committee with the Grant Neighborhood Association, DevNW, and affected neighbors that has continued to remain active. The parsonage has been broken into and occupied, there has been camping on the site, along with significant amounts of trash. Grant NA and local neighbors are in contact with Tara Hanby, at DevNW, about the situation. They are working with service providers and SPD to deal with the homeless visitors.

Shelly Ehenger, Manager of Federal Programs for Salem, said the development is in permit review. Ground breaking could take place by the end of the year, or early in 2023. DevNW is still finishing the organization of its financing. The closing date is December 21st; after which, they can move forward. There was a pre-construction meeting with the contractor in Eugene where contact with the NA was discussed. The contractor will coordinate with neighbors concerning some of the construction activity that might block the alley or street for certain periods of time.

There have been questions from the local community about the possibility of salvaging some of the interior components that will be removed during the renovation. It sounds like the general contractor is happy to accommodate and supervise that. When asked how salvagers would be notified, Sam said he will keep a

list of interested parties. When asked what changes have been decided on, Paul said most will be in the interior with nothing significant on the exterior. There will be a community event prior to commencing the work.

Paul confirmed that the original target demographic of youth aging out of foster care, has permanently changed to veterans.

#7 Graffiti Issues in GNA

- Susan told us about neighbor Diane B. who reached out regarding the recent spate of graffiti issues in the area north of Grant School. She has reported all of the incidents that she has seen to the city, and is also working with neighbors to do the same. Officer Vidrio said graffiti is a big concern in Salem, particularly gang tagging. After the SPD's Violent Crimes Unit was dissolved there was an increase in gang related incidents. Gang tags are specific and are often crossed out and/or painted over by rival gangs. Currently there is only one abatement staff person and they are trying to fill the other vacant position. Please call, email, or report on the city's weblink any graffiti or tagging instances. Call Jennifer Hingston, 503.371.4264, no matter where it is located – be it private or public property. Installing lights and cameras in areas that are subject to being marked are helpful. Damage to cameras is rare. Make sure that your lights do not shine into other properties, particularly windows.

#8 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola reported:
Anyone interested can register for CERT classes that will begin on January 10th and last through January 28th when the mock disaster drill is scheduled. Volunteer “victims” are always needed and welcomed for the final drill exercise. Bonus - you get a free potluck meal.
- Communications/Outreach - Susan noted:
Our neighborhood newsletter now has 106 people signed up. Irma is trying to get other neighborhood associations to produce a newsletter for their organizations. The city will train them. Susan has said she is willing to train folks and provide information on collecting email addresses and contacts. Sam said N² volunteered to help fund the work to accomplish this.
- Land Use Updates – Paul had nothing to add, beyond the DevNW information already provided, above.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam reported that they will meet next Wednesday, December 7th at the Salem Police Station community room. He also said that Lynn Takata, at NEN, is working on the joint cleanup schedule for next May. She asked about date preference: May 6th or May 13th. Support was for May 6th as May 13th will be Mother's Day weekend.

#9 Other Business

- Lola reminded all that the annual Willamette Heritage Center Christmas lights event, “Magic at the Mill”, will run from December 19th through the 23rd. It will feature music, kids' activities, and walkthrough lighting exhibits. Food is offered for volunteers and vendors in the spinning room.
- Ash said there is a Salem Alliance Church sponsored food pantry in the old laundry building at 1268 Broadway NE. It is open from 10:00 to noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. It serves all neighbors in need. There is no proof of need required. Visitors can select from a pantry list. Fresh fruits and vegetables are provided by Marion-Polk Food Share, and shelf stable items are donated by SAC congregation members. She is in contact with the Community School Outreach Contacts (CSOC) at the local schools.
- Sam commented on the need for clear communication as we schedule items for our agendas so that we have them prepared in time to submit to Irma and Susan for publication.
- January's meeting will include a presentation by a master recycler.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright