

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting February 2, 2023 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>P</i> |
| MARK DECOURSEY      | <i>P</i>           | TERESA JOSLIN     | <i>P</i>           | MARISSA THEVE   | <i>P</i> |
| TIM FRANCE          | <i>P</i>           | NICK MASELLI      | <i>P</i>           | PAUL TIGAN      | <i>E</i> |
| CHRISTOPHER HACKETT | <i>P</i>           | SUSAN NAPACK      | <i>P</i>           |                 |          |
| LOLA HACKETT        | <i>P</i>           | SAM SKILLERN      | <i>P</i>           |                 |          |

Others present: Carolin VanOrdin, Don Vidrio, Ray Quisenbery, Diane Bourdeau, Carol DeCoursey, Jim Scheppeke, and Virginia Stapleton.

Christopher moved that ***“We approve the January minutes as submitted.”*** Lola seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

**#2 Great Story from Grant**

- Sam shared that an All-City Jazz Concert was held at North Salem High School last Saturday. It was supported by the non-profit “Music Lessons Project”. This organization supports music students whose families do not have the financial resources to provide private lessons.
- Tim said that the annual Night to Shine prom will be held at Salem Alliance Church next Friday. It will include an opportunity for attendants to get in a limo, for a ride around the block, and enter the event on the red carpet.

**#3 Neighbor Concerns**

- Susan said that the 7-11 on Capitol Street will be closing at the end of April. The employees have been offered jobs at the Wilsonville store.
- Jeanne reported on a family member who observed a dangerous situation at Parrish Middle School. A car trying to enter the small northwest parking lot to collect children after school could not fully enter the lot because the drive aisle in the lot was full of other cars. This blocked the street and public sidewalk for an extended period of time. Students walking on the sidewalk saw the most open path to take and walked out into the street to go behind the blocking car; putting them in danger. The car was also blocking east-bound through traffic, forcing cars to enter the west-bound lane in order to get through the area. Sam said that he would speak to the principal about the situation.

**#4 Officer’s Report**

Officer Don Vidrio was present. He said that if anyone is, or knows someone who might be, interested in police work with the city, to contact the department.

He reported that:

- The Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response Team is evolving and the Marion County Mental Health group will be working with them.
- The nationwide Crisis Line phone number, 988, is up and operational. The calls are coordinated in New York City.
- Body cameras will be worn by all Salem Police officers starting on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The city has Community Service Officers. These are not “sworn” officers. They collect information on cold theft cases, stolen vehicles, etc. There are 2 full time officers and other part-time officers.

- Virginia started a discussion about traffic enforcement around schools. Neighbors will need to call and complain to get enforcement increased at neighborhood schools. Officer Vidrio recommended calling Jennifer Hingston, at SPD, to get a portable speed sign placed. Teresa suggested placement on Capitol Street at Gaines Street. Mark moved that ***“GNA submit a letter to Police Chief Womack and Sergeant Kofrid to place a speed reader board in the 1300 block of Capitol Street and include a request to emphasize traffic safety around schools.”*** Tina seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Jeanne).

## #5 Councilor Report

Virginia reported the following:

- The budget committee is starting up and she is chairing it again this year. Citizens can access a budget app on the city’s website where you can edit the budget to see the effect of any changes you are interested in. You can also include additional items that you feel are important and you can submit that to the city;
- The Vision Zero Goal will be included in the Transportation Master Plan. It is a program to reduce traffic-related deaths, from the current 17 per year, to 0 per year in the next 10 years;
- City Council is working on the 20-is-Plenty campaign. Data collected on speed humps on 21<sup>st</sup> Street saw the speed drop by 5 mph and the number of cars by half. They are looking at the cost to expand the installation of permanent solar powered speed readers, like that on Hawthorne Street between Center and State streets;
- Work is being done on ideas for the Truitt Brothers Front Street redevelopment. Among the proposals is the idea of replicating the Vancouver, Washington riverfront improvements;
- There are new parking mandates from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). These include: new programs for developing and enforcement; and, no minimum parking but keep the maximum cap. Residential parking zones will remain.

## #6 Quiet Clean Salem

Marissa Theve presented information on this organization and its goals. The primary focus is on phasing out gas powered small engines, particularly leaf blowers. These tools can produce up to 115 decibels (dB) of noise. The NIOSH recommended exposure limit is 85 decibels. Noise pollution shortens a healthy life by 10 months, due to nerve damage. Lower noise levels can still be damaging if it is constant. Pollution emitted for 1-hour from small engine tools, such as leaf blowers and lawn mowers, can be the equivalent to that produced by a 1,100-mile car trip. Gas powered leaf blowers put out more pollution than a Ford F-150 Raptor does. The investment return on switching from gas powered to electric is 9.7 months, and sometimes quicker. Jurisdictions have adopted various equipment bans, including: Burlington VT – seasonal bans; Seattle WA – all gas blowers banned; Portland OR – use limited to specific times during the day and dB level; NY, CA, MD – rebate programs to support equipment changes. Salem’s ordinance prohibits noise disturbances between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am. Salem Police does not enforce this ordinance due to staff shortages. There are 2 proposed bills in the Oregon Legislature: HB 2970 would phase out small gas engines; HB 2528 would provide a tax credit for the purchase of commercial grade battery powered leaf blowers and related equipment. Salem is in the process of converting city work crews’ equipment to electric tools. However, increasing noise enforcement is unlikely at this time. New ordinances could address: phasing out blowers; seasonal bans; restrict days, times, and dB limit; and, institute a buy-back program. Individuals can help by doing the following: leave leaves in the garden beds; switch to all-electric lawn care tools or use hand tools; express support and encouragement to neighbors, city councilors, and legislators; support the proposed house bills; join Quiet Clean Salem, which meets at 5:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Their motto might be “Make America Rake Again”. Sam also suggested that Quiet Clean Salem should consider meeting with the Latino small business group alliance with a proactive outreach, since there are many businesses that do this work that are Latino owned.

## #7 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola reported:  
The January classes were cancelled with Greg Walsh's resignation. He has moved to the Director of Emergency Services post at Marion County. It will take 2-weeks to 4-months for the city to find a replacement director. CERT meetings will continue. The Grant-Highland meeting will be on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm at Broadway Commons. The focus will be first aid and we expect to have attendees from Fire Station #2 to assist us.
- Communications/Outreach - Susan offered to get a Zoom account for the Grant NA so that we are not dependent on board members' private accounts. The cost is about \$180/year. Susan moved that ***"Grant NA authorize Irma Coleman to utilize funds from our communication account to set up a Zoom account for Grant NA."*** Tina seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.  
Susan also suggested that we send out a postcard, again this year, to all addresses in the neighborhood to provide NA information. Susan moved that ***"Grant NA authorize spending up to \$800 of our communication funds to print and mail a postcard to all neighborhood addresses with information about our May General Meeting and include a meeting calendar for the period of May 2023-May 2024, along with other information."*** Marissa seconded the motion. Susan will design the card and work with Irma to get them sent out. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.  
The city has a promotion campaign for neighborhood associations and will provide lawn signs that say "We Belong" to anyone who is interested.  
Our newsletter is being opened by more than half of those who are receiving it. Susan would like any input on content, or submittal of articles or photos for the site, from Board members and neighbors. She would appreciate Board members' participation in an interview. She has a list of prepared, standard questions.
- Land Use Updates – Paul was absent. Sam reported that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Evergreen Church on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 pm. He is still investigating salvage opportunities as the work on the former church building commences. There are lead paint concerns that might hamper those efforts.  
There are two new duplexes on Jefferson Street between Capitol and McCoy streets. They have a bit of shingled gables and some other details that help them fit in with the surrounding older homes. Columbia Hall has a 1-year lease for a church to use the facilities.  
Jason Lee Church has a Congregations Helping People program that provides food and vouchers for those in need.  
There is a proposal for a new sign monument on High Street at Mill Creek (across from Boone's Treasury). Kimberli Fitzgerald, Salem's Historic Preservation Officer, is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to get an updated and holistic narrative in place.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam said they will be meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> this month at the new YMCA building. The parking lot at the intersection of Silverton Road and Portland Road is the home base for the Church in the Park Safe Parking program. The CPT is coordinating with local school Community School Outreach Coordinator's (CSOC's) to start a monthly Teacher Appreciation activity.

## #8 Other Business

- A CPR class is being sponsored on February 7<sup>th</sup> by the SWAN neighborhood association. All are welcome.
- Diane reported on the rampant graffiti issues in the neighborhood, especially the area bounded by Shipping, Winter, Norway, and Capitol streets. Most of the tags have been cleaned or painted over, with only four left to be done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright