

North Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting

January 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Salem, Oregon & via Zoom

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM, followed by introductions of all present in person and anyone present on the Zoom call.

Board Member	Position	Attendance
Deanna Garcia	Chair	Present
Doug Rodgers	Vice-Chair	Absent
Christine Potter	Secretary/Treasurer	Present
Shirlene Gonzalez	Parks Chair	Present (Zoom)
Dennis Will	Land Use Chair	Present (Zoom)
Carl Engstrom	Member at large	Present
Denise Currey	Member at large	Unexcused
Kim Currey	Member at large	Unexcused
Pamela Blake	Member at large	Absent
Bobby Ottis	Member at large	Present

Attendees: Sergeant Mike Baskett, Officer Chris Russell, Abbey McDonald (Reporter – Salem Reporter)

Neighbors: Rodger Haase, Patty Tipton, Dennis McMahon, 2 other Zoom attendees ('Ron' & 'Cokecolaman')

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December 2022 were submitted for Board review on 1/4/2023.

Dennis Will motioned to approve. Carl Engstrom seconded the motion. The minutes from December 2022 were unanimously approved.

3. Police Report – Sergeant Baskett from Salem Police Department

- Monday, December 12th – Chief Womack updated Salem City Council on year-end progress of strategic plan. His presentation is available for viewing ([City of Salem Council Meeting - December 12, 2022 - YouTube](#) – his presentation begins at 1:04:30 of the meeting recording and runs to 1:48:00.) Topics he covers include Homeless Services Team, Intelligence-Led Policing, Body-Worn Camera Program, Police Legitimacy, and Hiring & Retention. He also responds to City Council questions on staffing, graffiti and speeding.
- HST Services Team (HST) Update:

In 2022, Salem Police Department was authorized by city council to add two police officer positions to staff a team to work directly with the unsheltered community. The purpose of the team is not enforcement driven but built on the idea of relationship-building. Building a relationship with service providers and the unsheltered community through regular communication increases the chance of individuals connecting with available services.

The team works 40-hours a week in every part of the city. The bulk of their work includes identifying locations of unmanaged camps, responding to online complaints of camping on private and city owned property, regularly visiting areas prone to complaints such as Cascades Gateway Park (and other large, urban parks) and ensuring areas around the managed micro-shelter communities remain clean. HST coordinates their efforts and works closely with the S.OS. team to avoid duplication and increase their effectiveness in covering all areas of the city.

In addition to assisting with the cleaning of unmanaged camping and acting as a bridge to services, the officers also focus their efforts on the safety of both unmanaged and managed camping locations. Frequent visits to those locations can often lead to greater trust, which in turn helps identify individuals who are victimizing residents.

The two officers began their assignment in 2022. They are senior officers with extensive experience and training in all areas of law enforcement, including crisis communication and intervention, de-escalation, problem-solving, and trauma-informed practices.

For service providers, open communication and a greater sense of partnership allows for open and honest dialogue and a greater coordinated effort to provide resources for the unhoused. Monthly service provider meetings between the police, HST and SOS team members, and outreach staff creates the space for that communication and provides an opportunity for both entities to share information related to program updates, discuss program needs, and share ideas on how we can better partner to serve the needs of the unsheltered.

During the past 6 months, there have been many success stories related to the work done by H.S.T., S.O.S, and all the local service providers. These stories include assisting individuals with obtaining food, gas for vehicles, clean clothes, or drug/alcohol treatment appointments. For others, it was identifying barriers to services and addressing them, such as attending court to remove warrants or connecting individuals on wait lists with the appropriate service providers, so they did not lose the service they were waiting for. There have been several individuals who were able to successfully transition out of unmanaged camps and into drug/alcohol treatment, managed camping pod or other transitional living space, or into a shelter due to the persistence of the HST officers.

The below table contains statistics gathered by HST officers during their first 5 months. It should be noted that the number of camps and individuals contacted represents either contact made at a new camp or with a new individual or are repeated contacts. Many camps and individuals are contacted numerous times by HST, at either the same location or as the individual moves around to new locations.

Referrals are tracked based on connecting an individual with a resource. Not every individual contacted is willing to accept a referral or there are no services available for the need of a particular individual. For this reason, there is a difference between the number of individuals contacted and the number of referrals provided.

In addition to tracking statistics to document the work, the HST team is working with other police department and city IT employees on an app using GIS to help identify camp locations, individuals in the camp who would benefit from referrals to services, and any other important information that would need to be documented.

	<u>Camps Contacted</u>	<u>Individuals Contacted</u>	<u>Referrals provided</u>
June	181	258	68
July	160	238	69
August	193	326	49
September	182	285	38
October	317	300	42

- Lucky Fortune fire and related arson incidents– an observant officer ID’d the suspect and an arrest was made.
- No significant incidents on New Year’s Eve. In response to neighbors’ concern about fireworks use, this is primarily a noise complaint, unless there is a direct to person or property. Officer Baskett suggested NOLA invite county and fire department personnel to speak to neighborhood association to discuss this concern.

Why don’t officers pull over people who are obviously violating traffic rules such as driving without headlights on after dark? Officers must prioritize issues and may be on the way to a call that takes precedence. Don’t assume the officer isn’t heading to a call simply because they don’t have flashing lights/siren on.

We were told the Police Department was going to be able to hire more officers. Did that happen? Funding authorized for 196 positions. The challenge is hiring and getting qualified applicants. This is a nationwide problem in law enforcement and fire as well. Also need to compete with other agencies in other cities.

Homeless encampment reporting portal [HERE](#)

Sergeant Baskett can be reached for questions by email: mbaskett@cityofsalem.net

4. Code Compliance Report: Officer Chris Russell

- Based on the 3-month period from Oct 1st through Jan 4th, there are 6 active property cases including:
 - 45th/Sunnyview - clean up of demo is progressing, site is permitted for mobile home
 - Fisher – monitoring 2 unoccupied houses near car dealerships, there is some activity there, not yet declared derelict, owner is responsive and keeps house secure

- On Watson - boarded up house
- Lansing neighborhood has more going on, but not all cases are assigned to Officer Russel
 - Abrams - derelict - posted - owner cleaning it out and plans to sell
 - Duncan - issue for a while - recently posted derelict - lot of criminal activity
 - When a home like this is unoccupied and attracts crime, code compliance takes it into consideration and then tightens it up and the officer makes sure it is secure.
 - Market/Evergreen - unoccupied - owner changed locks
- In general, the issues with car campers are slowing down now. There are some dedicated resources before moving to towing vehicles.
- Code compliance will try to report out once a quarter.

How long does it take for a house to get to that derelict status? No specific answer, some one month, some years

What about people parking travel trailer in front of house? Detached on city streets is prohibited. If attached to vehicle in residential, more than 23' in overall length while not actively loading/unloading is prohibited

What about cars parked on lawns? Not supposed to park on lawn (it is a code violation)

5. City Councilor Report - none

6. Committee Reports & Board Business

- Transit – Doug Rogers – Not present to report
 - Visit [Cherriots web page](#) for bus information
- Traffic – Deanna Garcia – nothing to report
- Land Use – Dennis Will – nothing to report
- Parks – Shirlene Gonzalez – nothing to report
- Board Business – February 1, 2023 NOLA Meeting Location
 - Deanna requested use of Boys & Girls Club space (Epping branch at 3805 Lancaster Dr NE). The fee is \$25 per hour, and we may be able to get that waived.
 - MOTION Christine Potter to approve the issuance to Boys & Girls Club of up to \$50 NOLA funds to book space for NOLA’s February 1st meeting. Seconded by Bobby Ottis. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Board Business - Newsletter
 - The city provided a training session where they taught neighborhood association representatives how to make newsletter. If NOLA commits to producing a quarterly newsletter, funding and content available
 - We will use existing email distribution and encourage non-participating neighbors to sign up to receive it through social media posts, etc.
 - We will need to generate Content ideas. Some include a kids art corner, highlight a park, grant for street mural
 - The email platform Mailchimp will be used to create templates and send out

- MOTION from Bobby Ottis for NOLA to commit to doing one year of newsletters. Motion seconded by Carl Engstrom and was unanimously approved.
 - Board Business – Bylaws
 - Bylaws Sub-Committee to report back February 1st
 - A general update of NOLA’s boundaries will be made to existing published bylaws in the meantime.
 - Board Business – Reporting Encampments
 - If you see a developing encampment, you are encouraged to report [here](#)
 - Board Business – Event Planning 2023
 - Consider types of events we’d like NOLA to participate in this year (Open House? Festivities? Table or Booth at scheduled events? National Night Out?)
 - Community engagement is important, many people don’t know they are a part of a neighborhood association.
7. Open Forum for any discussion
- Patty Tipton (former Lansing chair) & Claudine Shaw (Lansing board member) interested in being on NOLA board. MOTION from Dennis Will to nominate Patty and Claudine as Board Members at Large. Motion seconded by Carl Engstrom and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - Patty would like to meet with Shirlene to discuss parks and join the Parks Committee
 - ACTION: Deanna to send out updated roster with contact info
8. Close of Meeting / Adjournment
- There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.