



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
Thursday, January 19th, 2023 via Zoom only

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Phyllis Abbott-Cavota, Vice Chair; Jess Cruz, Community Liaison Chair; Shirley Robertson, Treasurer; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair).

Absent with excuse: Don Jensen Land Use Chair (out sick and out of town); Pedro Mayoral (sick), Randy Ray (out of country).

General Board Members present: Rebecca Strieper; Joanne Barnhart; Bill Berry, Michael Hoselton.

Member: Mark Ten Kate (name as shown on screen – email address as given bounced back)

Guest Speakers: Delores Pigsley, Siletz Tribal Chair (Casino) and Kevin Hottmann, Traffic Engineer for City of Salem.

Other Speakers: Sgt. Jacob Pratt, Salem Police; Jose Gonzalez, City Councilor for Northgate.

City Liaison: Irma Coleman

The meeting started about 6:05 p.m. when more people were present.

Although Jose Gonzalez started to speak, Sgt. Pratt appeared and Jose kindly offered Sgt. Pratt, (who had indicated to Kaethe earlier by email he might be a bit late), to speak first as Sgt. Pratt had to return to his duties as police officer. Sgt. Pratt took over to report to us about various matters. He said they are in training now using body cams. They are understaffed by about ten people, and it takes about 6 months to a year to get them where they can do their duties as officers. City is working on point in time counts so they are not closing parks to the homeless as they continue to count. Two officers are being used for this purpose. They are working with service providers for 200 camps or 281 individuals monthly. The homeless are not interested in the services offered by the police. The police are doing a lot with the little service they have for the homeless due to not enough officers.

When it was Jose's turn, Bayard read him the Certificate of Appreciation from Northgate. Jose said he appreciated that very much. He said, "it means a lot to me." Jose talked about the speed bumps. He did not want them to be too hard so that the emergency vehicles could pass over them easily. He talked about Salem Airport. How they are planning to get it to accept commercial airplanes by small airlines. They won't compete with the big airlines like Delta for instance. Bayard asked why the city is invested in improving the airport using a lot of money without any commercial airlines chosen and asked, "isn't that risky?" Jose agreed and said he was surprised that the council all voted for it.

Delores Pigsley was our first guest speaker. She updated us on the status of the casino project. She said they are getting ready to build the staff housing; half low income and half market rate, close to the casino. She would like it to be done this year however, it probably would be in 2024. They are waiting for the environmental assessment which is taking a lot of time. They hope all goes well so that Governor Tina Kotek will approve and that everything goes smoothly as planned. The next guest speaker was Kevin Hottman, City Traffic Engineer, who talked about the recent speed bumps on Stortz. He was happy to get it done on the one day we had good weather and not wait until May. He said there were numerous requests for them throughout the city. Kevin also talked about light pole requests which also came from all over the city. He said he prioritized roads where there were no sidewalks before the ones which have sidewalks due to dangerous

conditions that could arise from not having sidewalks and without light. When Bayard said what about the gun shots coming from where it is dark, like on Northgate Avenue, Kevin said that was one of the priorities. Kaethe mentioned she will continue to remind him about Northgate Avenue. Phyllis said she noticed a speed checking machine for a while and was glad and thanked Kevin for getting installed a large speed limit sign on Brooks Ave. Bayard read to him the Certificate of Appreciation from Northgate Neighborhood Association. Kevin seemed very pleased with it. Irma was seen clapping.

Next was Kaethe Mentrum reporting about the application for the two large soccer goals for Fisher Road Park accepted by City Parks Operations. It will be reviewed, and we will be notified of its result sometime in February 2023. About graffiti even in parks, she asked everyone to call Graffiti Hotline at 503-371-4264 to fight crime. Due to shortage of staff, the Director of City Parks asked if we can all help fight vandalism. Graffiti could be caused by kids, gang members or even some homeless, all marking territory.

Kaethe announced as Secretary that the newest Who To Call page is found in the City Page, Board Member Resource Page.

The Chair's Report from Bayard was next. Covered roof for the low barrier was suggested to the City. He said we need long range plans, not just react to emergency situations. Bayard mentioned Tina Kotek saying millions of dollars will be used for the homeless. Bayard talked about accountability for the millions of dollars going towards the homeless. He asked what do you think about requesting for accountability for the millions of dollars that are supposed to go to the homeless? He also mentioned we cannot just provide housing without mental and/or drug treatment facilities. He said from his own experience, many overdosed or damaged them. Jess then said all that money is not just going to housing but did not know where or the amount that was going.

Jess talked about the boat on Portland Road and why is it taking so long to get that removed. Bayard said it was burned up. Kaethe said it was on private property and it takes time for the City to get their lawyers, etc. She said the City said it could get cleaned up coming spring. The City asked for volunteers to help clean up. But Bayard said we have no insurance for that. Kaethe said if there is a needle propped up and stepped on, we could get a disease of some sort, so she is not doing it.

Then Irma mentioned about a new low barrier shelter (Navigation Center) opening soon. Bayard asked how many beds and since Irma said she did not know, Kaethe said 75. Irma said there was a meeting set for the next day with Chief Womack discussing about crime. Two of the N/A Chairs were selected to be in the meeting.

Bayard called for the meeting to adjourn. Bill made a motion to start the vote. Becca seconded it and all said aye. The meeting adjourned around 7:12 p.m.

Note, on-line voting:

- On 12/3/2022- Voted to get a letter to the Mayor, City Manager and City Council regarding a plan to manage the homeless. The board members who voted are Becca who also seconded it, Shirley, Bill, Jess, Phyllis and Kaethe.
- On 12/10/2022- Voted to get November minutes approved. The board members who voted were Phyllis who also seconded it, Shirley, Jess, Michael, Bill, Becca and Kaethe.
- On 12/28/22 - A letter was emailed to Gretchen Bennett, City Advocate for the Homeless and to City Council with copies to Nelson Morales, Jake Snell and Chris Russell, regarding a letter to them which was supposedly private letter by Kaethe Mentrum. However, because she added NGNA after her name, it belatedly was brought up to NGNA's attention to be voted. It was a letter asking them to think about doing more regarding the homeless situation after a homeless man was stabbed and beaten and one of our executive board members was involved in calling 911. She mentioned it was the second violence of the month. The board members who voted yes and seconded were Michael and Shirley, and yes votes came from Randy, Bill, Jess, Phyllis and Kaethe.

- On 1/7/23 – NGNA voted to award Kevin Hottman, Director of City Traffic Engineer with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his work related to traffic matters in Northgate. The board members who voted were Shirley who also seconded it, Michael, Jess, Phyllis, Bill and Kaethe.
- On 1/13/23 – NGNA voted to send a letter to Mr. Harish Patel, Florencein Inc., 1503 Virginia Ave, North Bend, Oregon 97459, Manager of the land managing co. Votes were made and seconded by Shirley, Michael and voted by Becca, Phyllis, Jess and Kaethe.
- On 1/24/23 - NGNA voted to a. Letter of Thanks to Jose Gonzalez for helping to achieve the speed bumps on Stortz. b. Reimburse Kaethe for paying \$8.09 for the certified mail to Mr. Patel re property on Fisher Road. Those who voted were: Michael who seconded it and voted, Shirley, Becca, Jess, Bill and Kaethe.