



## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2023

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes:

NESCA Chair Mike Beringer welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 7 PM. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 17th meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed.

### 2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Grant Davis

- Mobil Crisis Response Teams:
  - There are three teams in Marion County, as well as one in Polk County. Each team consists of an officer and a mental health professional. The teams respond to situations where people are in crisis and a health professional is better equipped to deal with the situation than a police officer alone. Currently they are only available for certain hours of the day, but the teams are gearing up to soon be around-the-clock when the National 988 mental health crisis hotline goes into effect.
- Salem PD Hiring Retention:
  - As of January SPD is authorized 199 sworn officers. Over the past two years they have lost 44 officers to other agencies, retirements, or leaving the profession all together.
  - The department is currently approaching, and may be surpassing, a 10% vacancy rate. The Chief and Command Staff are looking at recruiting strategies for the long-term and near term needs of the department.
- Body Cams:
  - The new body cams have been issued to all patrol officers. Officers and staff are getting used to how to use them. There is a lot of automation (uploading, etc.) that everyone needs to become more familiar with. The units are currently still in a “grace period,” but will be coming on full-time soon. There are policies in place for their use that will be required once the grace period is over.
    - Question: Will officers be allowed to review the videos prior to making statements about arrests and events?
      - There is a policy available for this on the City of Salem website, Building Trust with the Community, in the Transparency Portal.
        - [Salem Police Transparency Portal | Salem, Oregon \(cityofsalem.net\)](http://www.cityofsalem.net)
  - Some vehicles have dash cams in addition to the officers’ body cams.
- NESCA Specific issues:
  - A neighbor on Monroe Street had his garage door code hacked. The thief (thieves) was able to enter the garage and took a lot of tools, a bike, etc. It apparently happened late at night as the thief was not noticed by anyone even though there were lights around the garage. The family was at home, asleep, but there was no attempt to enter the home. A good reminder is to always lock the door between the house and the garage. The homeowner has now added a Ring Camera system to his property.
  - It was reported there were three separate gas thefts (in the Englewood area) from vehicles parked outside of homes. While it can be a bit inconvenient at times, a locking gas cap was suggested. Sgt.

Davis said it won't stop anyone who is determined to get into the tank, but it does often deter a would-be thief.

- Other:
  - Sgt. Davis said that unless he has other obligations on NESCA meeting night, he will plan to be here. There may be some changes to that schedule with new Sergeants that may be rotated in. Eric Hernandez may be taking over in a few months.
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### **3. City Councilors' Report:**

Councilors were unable to attend this evening as they were in a budget work session to discuss the budget. Councilor Virginia Stapleton provided a report ahead of our meeting, with highlights shared to those in attendance. Following is the full report, as received from Councilor Stapleton:

- “There are a few things happening at Council over the past month and continuing on this month. We’ve had work sessions on changes to our ordinances as it pertains to camping; we haven’t made any changes yet, but the work is centered around the City needing to update the code to be in compliance with the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Boise vs Martin. We will continue the conversation over the next couple of months.
- The other issue is the budget. We have our work session this month set aside for this conversation. The Finance Committee had a meeting this past week where they looked at four different ideas for increasing the City’s revenue; three of the ideas will be forwarded on to the full Council. This will take place on 2/21.
- DLCD (Department of Land Conservation & Development): Another issue that’s been getting some attention is the new parking changes coming for DLCD. They gave cities three options for new parking rules and staff first presented these to the Climate Action subcommittee back in November. I am on that committee and saw the presentation from staff. Two of the options are very convoluted and would require the city to hire more staff and set up new programs, none of which we have the money for. In the end, we chose what we think is the best course of action and made the recommendation to the full council to remove all parking minimum requirements for the whole city. This does not mean that developers won’t build parking, it means we will leave it up to them to decide how much is needed at any given site, but there will still be maximums.
  - Marilyn commented that this ruling applies only to cities of certain sizes and many cities are appealing the decisions. There will be more to follow on this.
    - Those appealing don’t believe that apartment buildings, groceries, etc. should be exempt from requirements to have a certain amount of parking.
  - This parking issue is far from being a done deal as there is still a lot of conversation needed as well as the appeal.
- Vision Zero: At our meeting in January, I [Virginia Stapleton] proposed a motion for the city to adopt Vision Zero and set a goal for zero traffic related deaths in 10 years. The motion passed 8-1. I’m very excited to have been a part of this really good work and look forward to the TSP update through the lens of Vision Zero and to see staff and community partners work together to end preventable deaths in our community.”
  - In response to a question, the one council member who did not vote for this proposal was Julie Hoy.

### **4. Guest Speaker: Nicole Utz, Salem Housing Authority**

Nicole provided us with an update on the Yaquina Hall project, scheduled to open on April 30.

The history of the building is that it was built in 1947 as a residence hall and training facility for nurses at the Oregon State Hospital. The historical plaque that was on the front of the building has been removed and is being refurbished. It will be placed back on the building in its original location. In addition, there will be history panels in the halls of the building on the main floor. Nicole said she hopes to also have a cabinet in the office area in which to place artifacts that have been discovered during the renovations. The project to convert this building was started in 2015 but has been slow in coming to completion due to historical requirements, the pandemic, and materials shortages. A lot of work was needed to get approval for new windows and, of course the infrastructure for all the utilities and then filling in of the tunnels. All of that took a lot of time when it appeared that maybe not much was actually happening.

The Yaquina Hall project (\$17.5m) was a package deal with the SouthFair complex (\$24.9m) at 1901 Fairgrounds Road which was completed in December and is currently 100% occupied. Nicole presented a slide show with photos prior to

the beginning of the Yaquina Hall construction, during some of the construction, and now that much of the building is completed. All apartments will be 1-bedroom, several that are fully ADA compliant. There is also one studio unit that will be for on-site staff. Because of limitations due to historical requirements which would not allow window a/c units to be installed, there are no air conditioners in the units. However, stand-alone units can be used. Financial assistance will be available for residents for this purpose.

Yaquina Hall will have no assigned parking. An agreement has been arranged with the City of Salem to use the parking lot by the D Street Park in perpetuity. Many of their residents do not drive so parking should not be a problem. The building has been brought up to code with fire alarms, hall extinguishers, and sprinklers. Individual extinguishers are also planned for each unit. The current “brown space” around the building will soon be a nice green space, either with sod or by seeding, and maintained by an exterior sprinkler system. In response to a question, Nicole said that pets are allowed at all SHA properties.

Nicole also mentioned another SHA property, Sequoia Crossing (3120 Broadway Avenue NE) which will have 60 units (54 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom). This property will offer permanent supportive housing for those who are chronically homeless. Case workers from The ARCHES Project will be onsite to provide services.

There will be a “Grand Opening” of Yaquina Hall in early April (5<sup>th</sup>) to showcase the property to the city. Nicole invited the Neighborhood Association for a guided tour prior to the April 5<sup>th</sup> grand opening. She will need to know the desired date and how many will be attending because hard hats and safety vests will be required for each person. Everyone is also required to wear close-toed shoes.

Thank you, Nicole, for a great presentation. NESCA is looking forward to having this addition to our neighborhood!

## 5. Committee Reports:

### a. Land Use

*Ian Johnson*

- Ian will contact DAS to schedule a guest speaker for the April meeting. The RFP for the Center Street property failed due to the change in real estate economics. They are currently trying to regroup to determine how to proceed.
- It has been noticed that surveying is happening on the Salem General Hospital property. Nicole Utz said there is an open planning review with the City of Salem for an affordable multi-family housing complex, around 98 apartments.

### b. Transportation:

- No Report

### c. Parks

*Eli Brody*

- Geer Park is being used, but there doesn't seem to be a lot of activity. Everything looks good. Thorpe Park and the D Street Park also look good. He hasn't been to Hoover Park lately.
  - Marilyn mentioned that every time she is at Hoover Park to check on the kiosk, there is a lot of graffiti.

### d. Hoover School

*Teri Lupoli*

- Teri hasn't been in contact with Principal Bridget in a while. She will contact Bridget before they close for Spring Break to see what news she has to share.

### e. Watershed

*Gary Pullman*

- No report

### f. North Campus

- Salem Housing Authority presentation

## 6. Other Business:

- Eli has set a date for our first street cleaning of 2023.
  - Saturday, **March 25**
  - Meet at the North end of the Park and Ride east of the Holiday Inn
  - **8:30** – approximately 10:00

- All equipment and safety vests are provided.
- NESCA receives compensation into our communication funds for participation in this activity.
- Marion Parkade
  - It has been announced by the city that the areas around the Marion Parkade will be closed from February 22 to March 24. There will be crews to clean up the litter and debris from those who have been camping along the building. Sanitizing of the area will also be done and support services will be there to help the homeless find shelter.
- N2 Meeting Information:
  - Marilyn and Mike attended the recent N2 meeting. Interesting information was provided about some of the help for area homeless and the progress being made.
    - Church @ the Park started at Cascade Gateway Park in 2007 with a service and a meal.
    - In 2020, the Fairgrounds Pavilion was started to provide shelter.
    - 54% of the clients from these two programs have transitioned into housing with positive steps taken to be off the street.

There being no further business, Mike thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on March 21st beginning at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The link will also be available on the city website.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli  
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer\*, Marilyn Moritz\*, Teri Lupoli\*, Lynn Cardiff\*, Eli Brody\*, Ken Gettys\*, Stacey Vieyra-Braendle,\* Robert Braendle\*, Lucy Beringer, Jim Lupoli, Ian Johnson, Sgt. Grant Davis Salem PD, Nicole Utz Salem Housing Authority

\*NESCA Board Members

Teri Lupoli

- **Other Website Information:**
  - To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
  - To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-concerns-about-homeslessness.aspx>
  - To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
  - To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
    - [503-371-4262 Graffiti Response team](https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx)
  - The link for the crime statistics: [www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats](http://www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats)