

HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES 03/09/2023

Present:

Board members

Co-Chair Leigha Gaynair (who presided over the meeting)

Heather Ames, Heritage Committee Chair

Vanessa Hemenway, Safety Committee Chair & heritage committee member

Diane Bourdeau

Lisa Marks

Jill Summers & Dylan Jones (with JGems)

Amy Logan

Sarah Parkison

Daryn Murphy

Ken Kinoshita

Jordan Lee

Jackie Leung (representing the Micronesian Islander Community)

Tye Pitterson

Ava Brown

Steve Jasporsen

Christi Olsen

Audrey Rocha

Dr. Brown (via Zoom)

Minutes for Feb 2023 were accepted (motion = Heather Ames. Seconded = Leigha Gaynair)

Present at the meeting was Jason Lee, representing Affordable Housing AHA

1 teacher & 2 students from the Jane Goodall Environmental School

Members of the Micronesian Islander Community project.

Salem City Councilor Ward 1 Virginia Stapleton was unable to attend.

Jill Summers from JGems reported students are doing a lot with the community garden. They want to add native plants.

Officer Gould participated via Zoom.

He reported Chief Womack will be sharing information with residents via the police department's YouTube channel. Officer Gould stated he is very impressed with the chief, who is very motivating and has a vision for smarter policing. Data driven intel will focus on areas for violent crime, fatalities, traffic. Every 30 days there will be a recap to see impacts of police using stats and officers working the streets. They are using principle policing, using the 4 pillars: voice,

neutrality, dignity and respect. All new staff are receiving training in procedural justice, and bias training is being incorporated. The body worn cameras arduous training is over and has been smoothly implemented. They are really happy they got funding for the program, which helps for gathering evidence, day to day contacts and many more reasons. Leigha Gaynair stated she was personally impressed with their implementation of the body camera program.

Vanessa Hemenway reported on the *Safety Committee's* progress: she drew up a survey for the neighborhood residents, who can win 1 of 8 solar motion sensor lights by completing one.

Leigha Gaynair made a motion to reimburse Vanessa Hemenway for the purchase of the lights. Heather Ames Seconded.

Vanessa gave Heather Ames a copy of her survey to add to the minutes (but subsequently asked Heather to proof-read and suggest changes, therefore the final copy will not be submitted until the April meeting)

Vanessa reported some of the items for the safety committee included recommendations for residents not to leave cars unlocked, leave lights on evenings and overnight. A question was raised regarding procuring paint to mark uneven sidewalks. Paint may need to be of a certain commercial grade. Research will need to be done into procuring the right paint.

Heather Ames gave a comprehensive report on progress by the *Heritage Committee*. Vanessa Hemenway volunteered to assist with home selection for the revised brochure. Leigha Gaynair volunteered to contact several professional photographers in the area to volunteer to take the new photographs of the proposed homes. Heather Ames attended the February Landmark Commission Meeting and was able to speak with members afterward. She has been in regular contact with Kimberli Fitzgerald regarding raising the Herbert Hoover plaque from street level on the corner of Highland and Hazel, the 'Mom & Pop' store on the opposite side of Highland, currently for rent, and attempting to discover what happened to the statue of a lion that once stood outside the Lions Den on Fairgrounds Road. Heather was referred to Kylie Pine at Willamette Heritage Center to find photographs of the lion (Kylie did not return Heather's call) and introduced to Lisa Anderson Ogilvie, Planning Director, who gave Heather her phone number for Leigha Gaynair to contact regarding current land use issues. Kimberli Fitzgerald also referred Heather to the Urban Development Department regarding possible options for the NA should what businesses the neighborhood would object to see in the 'Mom & Pop' store. Heather spoke with Sara Long at that department. The NA has very little sway regarding that store's renter, except if the business doesn't meet zoning restrictions. A copy of Heather's report is attached to the minutes.

A report from the *Outreach Committee* revealed the new logo had been accepted, yard signs specific to highland NA were in process. **Leigha Gaynair proposed a motion for 25 sandwich boards to be made. Vanessa Hemenway seconded the motion.**

Leigha Gaynair reported the *Enrichment Committee* has now been joined by Andrea Madison, who is heading up the National Night Out, which will be held this year at River Road Park. The

committee will also have a table at Salem Police Department's Halloween Safety Awareness event.

HNA Secretary Ryan Erickson had contacted the City regarding installation of 4 way stop signs at 4 locations on Spruce. No objections were voiced, however there were comments about the dangers of the train to pedestrians.

Sarah Parkison stated a hot button for her and safety was the amount of cars parking right at the corner of Hazel and Highland. Leigha Gaynair reminded all attendees that anyone can contact the City regarding safety concerns, curbs that no longer have yellow paint to designate No Parking areas, abandoned or improperly parked vehicles, etc.

A resident who stated his property is next to the Gypsy Jokers biker bar wants to divide his land on Brooks.

Leigha Gaynair spoke of outreach as it pertains to land use. The NA can be of assistance if a resident has a complaint. Filing a stop motion by the NA doesn't cost as a neighborhood, but the NA only has 2 weeks to file when meetings are only once a month. By the time the NA can file, it's usually too late. We are very restricted as a neighborhood as to what businesses come into our area. There is no cap on 'same on same' businesses.

Jackie Leung gave a presentation for the Micronesian Islander Community, who plans to develop the property/land at 2200 Commercial St (where it intersects with Grove St, behind f/stop Fitzgerald's. The Community has been established for 12 years, and began with Taste of Micronesia. They have been regularly meeting at Blue Lake or the derby area of Bush Park, or at Riverfront Park. They were first Salem-based, but now they are Statewide, with groups in Le Grand and the Tri-County areas. Their members represent 9 different islands, including Guam and the Marshall Islands. The community started in the late 1970's – 1980's, when students attended school here in Salem. Now, their language is among the top 5 spoken in this area. 3% of the Salem community is made up of Pacific Islanders. They are in the final days of purchasing land, with plans to build housing and a community resource center. Anyone can go and learn about the community as well as them providing support. They would like to work with the JGems school on their Roots & Shoots program. They want greenspace and a children's play area, a community garden, cooking classes, cultural classes and sewing classes. They would like a pig pit onsite, but may have issues regarding possible soil pollution. They need additional funding. Ground breaking will be in 2024, and projected opening is 2026. The location will be primarily for seniors.

Final notes/thoughts: Vanessa Hemenway had a great idea to use yard signs versus mailouts for 4,000 households at a high cost. Residents can use the FB page, City web page and City Planning Department for additional information on proposed projects.

Attachment/s:
Heritage Committee Report