

# **Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association**

## **Minutes**

**April 20, 2023**

**Meeting held via zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by co chair Sally Cook.

Officer Brandon Gould

Just some reminders for neighbors: Park in well lit areas, do not park between large vehicles, carry your cell phone, go out in groups and be aware of your surroundings.

He mentioned the national campaign of having 30% women police officers by 2030 Salem currently has 26 female officers which is 15% of the force.

He shared that due to retirements and leaving the Salem Police Department the city is down to 179 from 200 officers. They are actively recruiting!

The navigation center opens up on May 1st. It is a low barrier shelter and will have 75 beds. It will be open and staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The unsheltered do not have to be sober to get a bed and there will be intensive case management (more information can be found on the city website)

He mentioned that they receive about 10 reports per day of shots fired.

A neighbor mentioned that lack of transparency about the 24 shots fired in a shed on Browning the same day as the shooting on I 5 that ended up being connected. She was concerned that no alerts went out to neighbors and nearby schools were not put in lock down, if only briefly.

Another neighbor mentioned the police dogs out in the neighborhood last week. He did mention that there was practice for the tracking dogs last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If they are looking for someone they will have an officer(s) with guns drawn.

Neighbors are always welcome to call the non-emergency police number to ask questions. 503 588 6123.

Councilor Nordyke is involved at a CASA fundraiser this evening.

Councilor Gwyn

Shared information about the Navigation Center that is opening soon. They have the funds to open the center and to run it through 2025. She does not know the cost to run the center per year. She shared her belief that much of homelessness is the result of mental health issues and addiction.

Budget meetings are ongoing and public comments are encouraged. You can view the budget online. The city needs to increase revenue to maintain city services. One proposal is a monthly utility fee which would begin on July 1st and would be \$5.50 and increase by \$.90 on January 1 2024 and increase each year with inflation. The utility fee would impact everyone living in Salem and would be enough to balance the budget. Another proposal is a .49% payroll tax which would be paid by the employee. This would be paid by people who live and work in Salem. She has questions about this proposal. A neighbor thought giving citizens the opportunity to vote on the proposals was a good idea. Neighbors urged the council to education citizens about the proposed revenue streams.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/things-to-do/recreation-sports-and-activities/sports/stride-fun-runs-and-walks> This is the link for the city sponsored 5K and 10k walk runs at various city parks starting on May 20th.

Salem archeology day is April 22nd

First Friday concerts at the Riverfront Park amphitheater begin on June 10th.

Movies in the Riverfront Park will be held on 6/30, 7/14, 7/28, 8/11 & 8/25

Check the city website for movie titles.

A neighbor reminded those attending that the city will celebrate the 4th of July at the fairgrounds with food trucks, carnival rides, a concert by the group Alabama with tickets on sale now and a 20 minute fireworks show.

Capital Improvement Projects hearings begin in June. These are projects that involve over \$50,000 and are not included in routine operating costs. They plan 5 years out 2024 - 2028 and can include sidewalks, paths, playground equipment and improvements to parks. Neighborhood associations are welcome to submit projects.

The Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association would like to hear about proposed projects in our neighborhood and offer support.

### Street Mural Project Sally Cook

Sally has been in contact with Holly Atherton about this project and she is planning to help with the project and is not able to attend our meeting. No location has been chosen. It will be on a local street not on a collector street. It could be near a park like Sunnyslope or Secor Park, the garden or a trail. The area must be flat and all neighbors must agree since the area of mural will be blocked off for several days for outlining the mural and the actual painting. Travel Salem will come to the neighborhood and walk the potential sites. Sally shared a potential mural by the artist Leslie Venti that Linda Miller and Henry Neugass will get feedback on our social media sites. (Since this meeting more information has been learned. A local artist is welcome to submit a mural for approval) Henry Neugass and Linda Miller will be responsible for sharing any information on our social media sites Facebook: Salem Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association (94 members) and Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association(291 followers) and Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association group on the Nextdoor app with 142 members Our city mailing list has 207 subscribers

### Land Use - Henry Neugass

He shared that a neighbor of the property at 5534 Skyline Blvd contacted him. The property has been annexed into the city by the developer. These are 2 long narrow lots. The one currently under development with apartments has very few neighbors. One neighbor is the Church of Christ ( Bruce and Linda Miller afterwards drove by and noticed the church gates off the parking lot) The plan is to build apartments on the second lot which borders his property as several others. Henry will pay close attention to what is planned for these lots.

### Parks - Alan Alexander

He reported that the neighborhood association received a grant from the Parks Improvement Fund for a shade structure for the playground structure at Secor Park. Shade structure is \$7,500 The grant is for \$6,500. The Salem Parks Foundation has \$200 designated for Secor Park. Alan, who is a vice president of the Salem Parks Foundation, will seek a grant for the balance of the funds needed

for the shade structure. Henry Neugass made a motion and Sally Cook seconded the motion to apply for a Salem Parks Foundation grant for the balance of the shade structure for the playground equipment at Secor Park Motion carried unanimously Alan will submit the grant request. .

The city Parks Improvement fund will have \$60,000 available for parks improvements next year. Grant applications will open next fall. Neighbors are urged to submit ideas for a project for either Secor or Sunnyslope Park.

### Neighborhood Concerns

Sally Cook reported the information she received from the Faye Wright Neighborhood Association regarding the incident on April 10th where, on Browning Ave, 24 shots were fired in a shed. This is near Queen of Peace and Wright Elementary with the schools not being put in lockdown. The shooter got in a car and left the area. The police secured the area and did not find the shooter. This incident related to the incident on I 5 with a man holding a gun on a semi truck driver that shut down I 5 for an extended period of time. She was concerned that not only did the police not put the schools in lock down or that neighbors did not receive an alert.

Another neighbor mentioned the low flying military helicopters flying just above the tree line on April 10th about 9:30PM shaking homes and waking some children up. Alan Alexander who is retired air force and former manager of the Salem Airport. He said yes, military helicopters do fly in a formation of 3 with only 1 with lights on. He indicated that they usually fly from the Salem airport and use a path over less populated areas. He will call the airport manager and the head of the National Guard. He did say he believed that there 2 medivac helicopters stationed at the Salem Airport.

Linda Miller will contact the principals of Liberty Elementary and Schirle Elementary at back to school nights to see if the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association be permitted to have a table to hand out city provided materials to parents.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53PM

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in Attendance

Sally Cook

Alan & Judith Alexander

Bruce & Linda Miller

Henry Neugass

Gary Knighten

Officer Brandon Gould

Councillor Deanna Gwyn

Helen Griffin

Hans

Jennifer

Dan Tucker