

North Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting

April 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Salem, Oregon & via Zoom

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:31PM, 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	Present
Christine Potter	Secretary/Treasurer	Present
Shirlene Gonzalez	Parks Chair	Absent - Excused
Dennis Will	Land Use Chair	Present
Carl Engstrom	Member at large	Present
Denise Currey	Member at large	Present
Kim Currey	Member at large	Present
Pamela Blake	Member at large	Present
Bobby Ottis	Member at large	Absent
Patty Tipton	Member at large	Present
Claudine Shaw	Member at large	Present

Attendees: Sergeant Mike Baskett, Satya Chandragiri MD, Casity Troutt

Neighbors: Pam & Dave Lindley, Liz Veysey, Mike Pfenning, Taunya Garibay (Zoom)

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 2023 were submitted for Board review on 2/12/2023.

Pamela Blake motioned to approve. Carl Engstrom seconded the motion. The minutes from February 2023 were unanimously approved.

3. Police Report – Sergeant Baskett from Salem Police Department

- a. Report on 2022 special investigations unit statistics. This multi-agency partnership has resulted in the seizure of 122 guns and significant amounts of fentanyl, heroin, cocaine and blue M30s (fake oxy); more federal prosecutions and increased sentencing for drug and gun offenses. Marion County is a participant in the nationwide Safe Streets program.

Q – *Do officers carry the opioid neutralizer drug Narcan/Naloxone?* Yes, they do. A very small amount of fentanyl is life threatening. (This led to general discussion about addictive opioids.)

Q – *What are some physical signs you can observe to identify someone is using opioids?* Lethargy, pinpoint pupils, shallow breathing, evidence of powder substance, burnt foil, glass pipes. In the early stages of use, you might not observe much, but with advanced use, people tend to take less care of themselves resulting in poor hygiene, etc.

- b. Shots fired calls are received almost every night. Sometimes the sound of fireworks or backfiring vehicles are heard instead of gunfire. Responding officers can have an impact when they are able to narrow down where it is, identify witnesses and collect evidence.

Located casings are run through IBIS. When a gun is taken into evidence, they work on connecting it to any open cases using that ballistics database.

- c. Gang activity – There are random incidents going on including gang tagging and gun violence. Even with gangs, this gun violence is largely drug related, and to a lesser extent turf related. Shootings and gun violence are the highest priority for officers. Gangs here are not race unique, police target individuals based on their behavior.
- d. Update on body cam implementation. They seem to be tempering down some of the acting out. They are still working through some issues.

Q – *Is there a plan for a gang enforcement team?* Due to the lack of resources, there is not. However, detectives are very well-versed regarding gang activity.

Q – *How can we prevent our children in schools from getting involved with gangs?* Parenting and the family unit are important and should be prioritized. Police do have programs to get involved with the children, but that isn't their responsibility. These problems tend to start in the home. Some programs which provide an alternate environment include Boys & Girls Club, Gladiator Program, and the Kroc Center.

For consideration – How can our neighborhood association assist with outreach?

Homeless encampment reporting portal [HERE](#)

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

4. Councilor Report: Councilor Julie Hoy – Ward 6 and/or Jose Gonzalez – Ward 5

Due to a working session, neither Councilor was in attendance to provide a report.

5. School Board Candidates

- a. Casity Troutt – candidate for School Board Zone 2 – Casity is a mother and small business owner with two children in Salem-Keizer schools. She is a McKay HS booster as well as an FFA alumni and supporter. She noticed a shift in student behavior, accountability and education and is concerned about parents being devalued. Our kids are underprepared to succeed, and big change is needed. She expects that community engagement as well as new perspectives from people who interact with students will help fix these issues. For more information, see her website here [CasityforSchools](#)
- b. Satya Chandragiri MD– candidate for School Board Zone 4 – Satya is a parent and psychiatrist as well as the only incumbent running again. The mental health of students is of high concern to Satya, as suicide is rising. When running for his first term, there was no plan for students at risk of suicide, which led the board during his term to pass the first suicide prevention policy in Oregon. Satya is also focused on school safety and advocates for bringing School Resource Officers back to our schools. He is also committed to improving the quality of education and focusing on the essentials as well as transparency. For more information see his website here [Satya Chandragiri for School Board \(satyaforschools.com\)](#)
- c. General Discussion – Q&A

- i. A percentage of Title I funds have to be used for parent engagement/education. The board can adjust funds distribution based on school need and hold the budget committee accountable.
- ii. The School Board delegates Superintendent to run the district, and in turn they hire the employees to run the schools. If a problem comes to the attention of the seven-member board, they can direct the Superintendent.

Q – *How does each candidate feel about School Resource Officers?*

Casity – 100% in favor of getting SRO’s back in the school. They wouldn’t be there for every situation, but trained law enforcement should focus on drugs, guns, teacher assaults, sexual assaults. A small vocal group in our community is against having a police presence in schools, but even the student advisory wants to keep SRO.

Satya – Also in favor of the return of SRO’s to schools. Additionally, while the majority of the school board voted in favor of allowing licensed concealed gun owners bringing guns to school property, he voted against.

- iii. Direct all other questions to the candidates via their website contact forms.

6. Committee Reports & Board Business

- a. Transit – Doug Rodgers - Shared about experience on bus where he witnessed a verbal altercation between a driver and passenger. Note that all buses have AV recording, but this is not monitored. To report an issue, specify the bus number, bus stop, time and date so they can pull the content. Visit [Cherriots web page](#) for details regarding transit.
- b. Traffic – Deanna Garcia - Still waiting on follow-up on redesign of Sunnyview/Hollywood pedestrian crossing; Hollywood Construction underway at north end near Silverton Road - road closures with flaggers still allowing 2-way traffic with delays, full closure to any northbound traffic starts April 19.
- c. Land Use – Dennis Will - Permit Application approved for Credit Yes to occupy the property at 1717 Freeway Ct. (former Newport Bay Restaurant). Several conditions apply including fencing, lighting, and hours of operation. If curious about approval or conditions, please reach out to Dennis.
- d. Parks – Shirlene Gonzalez - Committee Chair not present, report as follows: The Parks Committee met in March. They conducted a walkthrough of NOLA’s parks and will have a list of recommended projects soon so the board can decide on a project(s) for a Salem Parks Foundation grant application at the May meeting. Patty shared a couple opportunities for community beautification projects.
- e. Bylaws - Sub-committee will meet soon to review suggested changes/updates.
- f. Newsletter - we are awaiting a NOLA-specific email address to be issued by the city. This will allow us to have a consistent point of contact for not only the newsletter and mailing list but can be used for our social media presence as well. Suggestions for content should be sent to Deanna and we need to identify who is interested in being a newsletter editor.
- g. Survey - A survey link was sent out to all Board members to look at upcoming needs for the community now that we’ve expanded our boundaries. Questions included tenure &

what roles Board members already hold with the NA plus other organizations and whether there is a need for additional sub-committees. The Board agreed a similar survey should be sent out to our community mail list to find out what the general public wants to see from our NA.

- h. Quarterly Chairs meeting agenda for future meetings will be distributed to the presiding Chair. While the agenda will be shared with the Board for discussion, it is not an open invitation for anyone on the Board to attend. Attendance will be subject to protocol as outlined in our bylaws (Vice-Chair attending in the absence of the Chair) and invitation for Board members to attend as it relates to sub-committee's or relative expertise of items presented on the agenda.
 - i. Discussion regarding access to NOLA's Facebook account and a reminder that there is a general expectation that personal or political opinions and events should not be posted on NOLA's social media. Decision made to limit administrative access to NOLA's social media accounts. MOTION from Christine Potter that NOLA adopt a niceness clause related to respectful online posting regarding our neighborhood association. Patty Tipton seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - j. Update on Kathleen Avenue issue – neighbors got petition signed and submitted to city and are now waiting on follow up and direction.
7. Open Forum for any discussion
- a. Parking minimums are subject to public comment and NA's are encouraged to provide testimony. The planned changes to parking will have an impact on the city as a whole.
 - b. Deanna will send out information and inquiry to the Board to start a dialogue about planning an event for the NA. The event is potentially scheduled for August in conjunction with or alongside National Night Out, and will be an opportunity to celebrate and properly announce the merger of Lansing with NOLA.
8. Close of Meeting / Adjournment
- There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.