



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
Thursday, April 20th, 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.

General Board Members present: Bill Berry, Michael Hoselton, Becca Strieper, Joanne Barnhart, Randy Ray.

Absent with excuse: Don Jensen Land Use Chair; Pedro Mayoral, Board Member

Police Officer: Sgt. Jacob Pratt.

Guest Speakers: Nicole Utz, Salem Housing Authority (SHA); Bruce Anderson, CEO Liberty House; Kyle Tarr, House Prevention Director; Dr. Satya Chandragiri and Casity Troutt, Keizer School District.

The meeting started about 6:00 p.m. by zoom.

Bayard asked each to introduce themselves.

Sgt. Pratt started by telling us there are not enough streetlights, more SCAM phone calls saying for example, your child is in trouble so to pay up, he said Chief Womack pushed transparency, explained using forced arrest is not exactly forced but even bumping into someone is considered forced, or if police had a stun gun out but not used, it is considered forced. Noise violation was brought up by Becca. He said he will investigate it after he returns. Police officers must see the backfire in person, etc. to give a ticket but cannot use video. They are trying to recruit more women for law enforcement to make it 30%. Right now they have 15%. They want to make it more equitable. He said the body cams are working great once they get used to wearing them.

Nicole Utz of SHA talked about a) Yakima Hall: Started 8 years ago in 2015 to restore this to historic standards. This was originally built in 1947. It took about \$18 M to build it. Has 52 units. US Bank was the lender. B) Sequoia Crossing: Has 60 units and took about \$24.8 M to build it. Used several lenders. Bayard asked if there is a landscaped courtyard and asked about parking spaces. She said yes to the landscape and replied it has 75 parking spaces. Nicole talked about partnering with others to be able to open as many affordable housings as possible. She showed slides of both Yakima Hall and Sequoia Crossing and other buildings, before and after, exterior and interior and was very informative.

Liberty House: First Bruce Anderson spoke about child abuse uptick. He said when a child comes into Liberty House, the child goes through a trauma and grief clinic and goes through trauma therapy. Kyle Tarr, House Prevention Director, said they work with other groups as a team. He showed slides and explained about each. He said 42% of the victims of child abuse and neglect are younger than 5 years old. Reported 10,766 – Oregon, 1,094 in Marion County and 293 in Polk County last year. He said he teaches people to recognize possible signs of child abuse, they have an on-line safety training via English or Spanish for the community to keep children safe. You can register at <https://irespectandprotect.com/trainings/> on Tues, Wed and Thurs evenings for a free training and a possible \$10 donation. Child abuse is preventable, and everyone can take a role in preventing it. Word of mouth is important to keep our children safe.

Dr. Satya Chandragiri, Keizer School District was next to speak. He said, “we don’t abandon our children, instead we bring our experience, mutual health, safety concerns, learning and we bring communities together.” Now many children cannot read, finding it hard to graduate and they drop out.

Casity Troutt, Keizer School District was next. She has five children. Due to covid, parents and children were shut out. The parents tried to volunteer but the School Board was far from being receptive and not welcoming. As an example, McKay High School has drug issues in bathrooms, hallways, fights going on and being inappropriate. A 9th grader is exposed to drugs in the halls. She asked a teacher for their opinions. An assistant Principal told her that parents are not educated and should not be involved. She said she is a small business owner. After her eldest son brought home an assignment to read and analyze decriminalizing drugs, she questioned the school about it being in the curriculum and was told the school will make its own decisions and parents are not inclusive. This made her aware something was wrong.

She said the students cannot read even an analog clock. Bill said some children cannot even read the Roman numerals. She said students learn to do blue collar work but since they cannot read, they cannot be doctors and lawyers. She said we as District needs to help them. We should be able to offer a variety of services, be academic. Now 9th grade is 5th grade level, below the standards.

She said teachers are being attacked. We must address all these issues. We must take each school, each grade differently. Many don't speak English at home so that must be considered.

Bayard asked a question about phonics which led to more discussions.

Bayard called for the meeting to adjourn. Kaethe seconded it. All said aye. The meeting adjourned around 8:00 p.m.

Note, on-line voting which always starts with Bayard calling for a vote and Kaethe makes a motion to start the vote:

- Voted for the minutes of March 16th, 2023. Shirley seconded and voted. Others who voted yes were: Jess, Phyllis, Randy, Joanne, Bill and Kaethe. Voting completed on April 4, 2023.
- Voted to send NGNA's letter to the city councilors with copy to Kristin Retherford, Keith Stahley, Courtney Knox-Busch, Irma Coleman. This letter regards elimination of required parking for new construction of multi-family units which would cause overcrowding at streets due to tenant off-site parking. This could result in parking on both sides of the streets not made for such parking causing accidents. The board members who voted were: Shirley who also seconded, Phyllis, Pedro, Don, Michael, Joanne, Becca, Randy and Kaethe.