

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Minutes

April 6, 2023

Attendance: Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Mike Sim, Officer Mark Jantz, Councilor Julie Hoy, Roger Hoy, Mrs. Liderman, Pastor Terry Mott, Irma Coleman, Carl Lund and Ryan Crowther (Marion County Public Works), Zoom: Susann Kaltwasser, Clark Hazlett

Sue opened the meeting with introductions at 7:00 and offered the minutes for March for approval. Mike Sim moved approval and Clark Hazlett second it. All voted approval.

Police Report: Officer Mark Jantz gave a short overview of personal safety tips. He spoke about the police pledge to hire more women (30 by 30). They now have 15% women officers and plan to double that percentage by 2030. He reviewed the news that the person who committed murder at the Cozy Inn in 2022 had been found guilty and was sentenced to 45 years in prison. (Note: the Cozy Inn was sold and has since been converted to low-income housing managed by ARCHES). There was question about number of murders in Salem. Officer Jantz looked it up and in the last 5 years there were 5, 7, 3, 9 and 5. There was concern expressed about increased shootings in east Salem and the increase in guns. Officer Jantz said that the Police now work with the ATF and FBI on local cases as well as coordinating with the counties and it is proving helpful. He said that it is increasingly hard to enforce the laws because of recent changes. He said that to address the increased crimes without more sworn officers they are hiring more Community Service Officers (CSO) who can help gather information and helping with coordination. They now have 8 SROs. There was a question about gangs. Currently there is no gang task force. The police are not allowed to keep lists due to changes in the laws. This led to a question about graffiti. Officer Jantz said that it should be reported to the Graffiti Abatement Team. They can remove it if on public property, but property owners are required to remove any graffiti on their property. It is important to report damage to street signs so that they can be cleaned properly. There might be help with supplies from Marion County. Most graffiti is apparently just kids “tagging” and not necessarily gang related.

City Council Report: Councilor Julie Hoy gave a report on upgrades taking place for Geer Park. The Council approved a PGE grant for a mini-street sweeper. It will be used for bike lanes and other off-road areas where the larger trucks can’t reach. The City only had to match \$25,000 of the cost. The Council had a work session on revenue. The City needs to find \$17 million by 2025 to keep services at the same level and to replace some of the federal Covid Relief funds they are using for the homeless. Two options were discussed. One was to increase the service fee that we currently have on our water bills. It would be around \$5 a month and raise about \$5 million a year. The other is a payroll tax that could raise from \$17 to \$25 million depending on the rate. No decisions were made at this time. They will come back to the topic after the Budget Committee has done their work. Clark said that after serving on the Budget Committee he has some questions about certain expenditures.

Cordon Road and Center Street Improvements (Marion County Public Works) Carl Lund and Ryan Crowther showed some drawings of the cross section for Center Street. It will be 3 lanes that includes a center turn lane. The improvement will include upgrades to the drainage,

sidewalks, and bike lanes. It will go from Lancaster to Mitchell/45th Place. They will do the south side of the street first and then the north side later. Now they are working on purchasing right-of-way property. Construction will be from May 2024 to October. Funding is from Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) which is federal dollars and gas taxes. It is a joint Salem and Marion County project. Susann asked about a traffic light at 45th. Mr. Lund said that eventually there might be one, but for now there would be only two crosswalks. One would be at Mitchell and the other by the bowling alley, because of the bus stops in those locations.

Cordon Road Study had a series of open houses to get public input. You can go to the County webpage (cordoncorridorstudy.com) to see more detail about the process and findings. Of the 3 alternatives proposed the one most favored by those who responded to the survey was Alternative #1.

“Alternative #1 seeks to provide a corridor that adequately handles future estimated traffic volumes with traffic signals at major intersections while providing enhanced pedestrian and bicyclist facilities. This alternative provides four travel lanes for the corridor south of Silverton Road and two travel lanes for the corridor north of Silverton Road, traffic signals at all major intersections, a continuous center median with breaks only at signalized intersections, buffered bicycle lanes, sidewalk, and a multi-use path, all matching the roadway context and future active transportation possibilities. The multi-use path is designed to be located on the west side of Cordon Road for the County-owned portions of the corridor, with options in the City-owned portions of the corridor for the path to be on the west side or east side depending on the adjacent land uses, existing infrastructure, and available right-of-way.”

New traffic lights would be added at Auburn, Ward, 55th, Kale and Hazelgreen intersections. Question was asked about speed limit and traffic flow. Mr. Lund said that the lights would be coordinated. He did not know if the speed limit would be adjusted, but said that increased traffic is expected. It is much safer to pull into the traffic at a light than what we have now. Mary Sarabia asked about the broken button on the crosswalk at Cordon and State. Mike wanted to know when the corner at Swegle Road could be widened to help with turns.

Neighborhood Communication - ELNA Newsletter Update: Due to the lateness of the hour it was decided that those interested in working on the newsletter would meet in a separate meeting and report to the board at the May meeting.

Committee Reports

a.) Land Use - 4125 Market Street Apts - Susann said that she had submitted comments regarding the many adjustments to setbacks, parking and landscaping. The findings are now complete. The Administrative Decision did address the landscaping by requiring more trees along Market Street, adjusting the fencing so that it would require it be made of materials that would not allow light to enter the next property. Also, that landscaping provide more privacy and sound reduction.

b) United Way Cottages - update: Susann has sent two emails to our contact with no response. She inquired of staff if there was someone else to contact and did not find anything new. The website has no new information either. She will continue to seek information.

c) 4900 State Street Apts - update: The application is awaiting a finding before the Hearings Officer. The request was nothing new, but just asked to be able to move to constructing Phase 3 and recognizing the new plan to build only apartments on the last parcel.

Citizen Concerns: Mrs. Liderman talked about her problems with neighbors playing loud music. Officer Jantz explained the process. The Salem Police do not respond to noise complaints, but citizens could still call the non-emergency number to lodge a complaint. In this case one of the problems is that in the past she has not been willing to press charges. This means that there is no way forward for the police. Also, there are no other complaints to corroborate the problem. Pastor Mott said that he has heard the loud music and the Liderman's have come to his church to seek refuge. After some discussion it was decided that Officer Jantz would pursue a further conversation and Pastor Mott would help in any way he can.

Annual meeting: The board agreed that our annual meeting would be in June. It was decided that a potluck might be possible during the summer, but not at that meeting. One topic suggestion was crime prevention.

Items for the next agenda: Annual meeting topic/speaker; newsletter update; United Way Cottages

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.