



NEN General Meeting Minutes
4/11/23

Call to order: 6:30 (via zoom)

Board attendance: Lynn Takata, Delana Beaton, Jacqueline Schindele, Ken Houghton, Ken Simila, Cindy Kimball, Jenna Otto, Joan Lloyd, LaLainya Kruger, Erin Grimm, Leslie Polson, Nick Cantonwine

City councilors: Linda Nishioka and Virginia Stapleton

Salem Police Department: Lieutenant Gill

Guest speakers: Nicole Utz, Salem Housing Authority
Kevin Hartman, City of Salem Senior Traffic Engineer

Total in attendance: 29

Announcements:

1. Earth Day event in Englewood Park: planting new shrubs and moving bark chips
2. Annual Neighborhood Clean Up: Saturday May 6. 9-noon. Parking lot of the First Nazarene Church, on 16th and Market streets
3. Laura Buhl reported on excessive trash near North High School, 13th street and 12th street promenade. Most likely caused by students littering. Discussion followed and ideas included working with North High School administration and students to eliminate the problem, possibly closing campus during lunch hour, working on a Zero Waste program with students, and having students pick up trash. Laura requested that NEN get involved.

Action: Cindy Kimball made a motion for NEN to form a committee to address the issue, approach the North High Administration and try to change student behavior regarding littering. Seconded by Jacqueline Schindele and unanimously approved by board.

Those interested in participating with Laura included Ken Similia, Margaret Stevens and Cindy Kimball. (If anyone is interested in working on this project please contact Lynn Takata and she will forward your name to Laura)

City Council report: Councilor Nishioka

1. Yaquina Hall remodel is completed and will be open for new residents soon.
2. The Navigation Center (located at 1185 22nd Street SE) will open in late May with 75 beds. It will be a low barrier shelter, providing stabilization, sleep, meals, mental health services, and housing assistance.
3. The contract has been approved with the mysterious airline company offering “low fare flights” after July 1st from the Salem airport to Las Vegas, Phoenix and Los Angeles.
4. The city has purchased land on Front and Commercial streets for supportive housing.
5. The city council work session on the city’s budget and ideas to increase revenue included:
 - a. Increasing the operations fee by \$5.50 per household. This would take effect on the July 2023 water bill.

- b. An employee tax on anyone employed in the city of Salem. There are currently approximately 69,000 people who live outside of Salem but come here for their employment and utilize our city services.

Guest speaker: Nicole Utz from Salem Housing Authority:

Discussion: Yaquina Hall, Building 33 (2575 Bittern St. NE). It has been remodeled into 52 affordable housing units. 32 would be available to low income people and 20 would be for those with persistent mental illness. There will be onsite management, wrap around services, ADA access and 90 cameras. There are already over 500 applicants.

Nicole is offering a tour for NEN residents. Please contact Lynn Takata if you are interested in a tour.

Guest speaker: Kevin Hartman, City of Salem Senior Traffic Engineer

Discussion: Traffic Improvement projects in our area include:

- a. State and 25th street intersection. It's a high traffic and accident prone area. Improvements include: signal improvements, raised medians, update ADA ramps, new crosswalk stripping, and new street lighting. Starts in 2025. Cost: \$650,000.
- b. 23rd and D streets intersection. Has increased traffic. Crosswalks will be marked.
- c. Capitol Street will go from 3 lanes to 2 lanes, starting at Center Street to Market Street. Buffered bike lanes will be installed, improved transit stops, and a "Bike Box" will be installed on Capitol at Market. (A bike box is an intersection safety design to prevent bicycle/car collisions, especially those between drivers turning right and bicyclists going straight.)

A number of attendees gave suggestions to where the city could focus attention with regards to better lighting, safer street crossings, and installing flashing lights. If anyone is interested in making suggestions to the city, please click on the link below. This will take you to the city's "Safer Crossing Program" site. Here you can make a suggestion for a safer crossing facility using a map.

<https://salem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a0fe60c93ada45b8b12e2aad57312167>

Salem Police Department: Lieutenant Gill gave update on intersections in the NEN neighborhood that would possibly qualify for speed cameras or radar signs that record your speed as you approach and drive by.

Action:

1. Joan Lloyd made a motion for NEN to give their approval to a home remodeling project in the Historic District that included new dormers, a side door access, and porch. Erin Grimm seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved.

Neighbor concerns:

1. Erin Grimm would like a light installed in the NW corner of Englewood Park to improve safety.

Action: March meeting minutes unanimously approved by quorum

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 PM

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kimball 5/1/23