



NEN General Meeting Minutes  
6/13/23

**Call to order: 6:35pm**, in-person at McRae Park

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

City councilor: Linda Nishioka

Salem Police Department: Lieutenant Gill

Total in attendance: 20 (plus three dogs)

**Announcements:**

1. Lynn asked for volunteer help to take on some of her tasks since she has injured her shoulder. Please contact her if you can help with Englewood Forest Festival on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. The city has approved replacing signs at McRae Park.
3. The Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF) grant was approved for the mural on the cement wall near the playground equipment in McRae Park. Design will include native flora and fauna. Art workshops will be scheduled for all ages for people to draw images of flora and fauna for the mural. Projected start date: September 2023.
4. Adopt A Road trash pick-up will take place on Saturday, June 24, from 9 to 11. . Meet at the west side of Safeway parking lot on Center Street at 9 AM. Gear is provided including gloves and trash pickers.
5. Please report any graffiti. It helps to reduce crime. Call 503-371-4264 and leave your name, telephone number, location of the graffiti, and a brief description.

**Approval of May Minutes:** May 9, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Salem Police Department Report:**

Lieutenant Gill discussed the “Smarter Policing program and how the police department focuses its attention on the hotspots in Salem. Right now, the hotspot is downtown, where they are working on reducing violent crime. He also gave an update on a few specific areas in NEN:

1. The home located at 1190 20<sup>th</sup> Street NE, adjacent to the Englewood School parking lot. This home has had a history of homeowner/tenant drug problems and recently there has been an increase in “activity” so Salem PD will be paying more attention to it.
2. The home located at 1575 Nebraska NE is now in foreclosure. There was graffiti on the back wall but this has been removed.

3. The home located at 1296 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE and Market St. The police are working with the homeowner to help her get the resources she needs and connecting her with NW Human Services.

**City Council report:** Councilor Nishioka

1. There have recently been reports of a “phone scam” in Salem. Someone claiming to be associated with a “Bottled Water and Air Quality survey”. If you receive a phone scam, try to get the name of the person calling you and then report it to the Salem Police non-emergency number: 503-588-6123
2. Salem faces an \$11 million budget shortfall.
  - a. Effective July 1, 2023 there will be an increase in the city operations fee on your water bill. \$5.50 for a residential unit, \$4.40 per multi-family housing unit and \$26.51 for industrial, institutional and commercial properties. You can waive this fee if you qualify as low income, disabled, or a senior.
  - b. On Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, the city council will vote whether to approve an employee payroll tax for everyone who is employed in the city of Salem. One third of the workforce in the city of Salem lives outside of Salem but uses our city services. Minimum wage earners would not be subject to the tax. This tax would bring in the much needed money to continue funding our critical infrastructure including police, fire departments, library, and parks. The tax would be 0.0814%. If the council approves the tax it will go into effect in 2025. If it fails, it will go to the voters.

**NEN meeting canceled for August.** The board unanimously approved canceling the August NEN meeting due to the many conflicting summer activities.

**NEN approves use of cities outreach money.** The City Council voted to give funding to neighborhood associations to help them with outreach. The NEN board unanimously approved the use of the \$800.00 allocation from the city to NEN for outreach use. Ideas for how to spend the money include:

- “NEN Event” signs to signify a NEN event is taking place. Can be used at any location (2 signs)
- Plant flowers at McRae park
- Plexiglass holders for NEN brochures
- A banner to hang above or below a table. Can be used at any event where NEN has a table.
- Printing of brochures to promote NEN and the Englewood Forest Festival

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:10 PM

**Next meeting (in person): Tuesday, July 12, 6:30 PM at Englewood Park.** It will be a **dessert potluck**. Mayor Hoy will be attending and the police report will include the possibility of installing a “red light camera” on Market Street. Red light cameras photograph a vehicle's license plate if the driver fails to stop at a red light and the vehicle owner or driver is sent a ticket.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kimball 6/14/23