



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 13, at 6:30 p.m. North
Neighbors Resource Center 945
Columbia St NE, Salem

Present:

Executive Committee Members

Leigh Gaynair, Co-Chair, Enrichment Chair
Merideth Patterson, Co-Chair
Ryan Erickson-Kulas, Secretary & Treasurer
Holly Schiefelbein, Outreach Chair
Heather Ames, Heritage Committee Chair
Andrea Madison, Enrichment Committee Member

Guest/Association Members

Tim Patterson
Rick and Ana Brown
Tracy White
Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
Diane Bourdeau
Virginia Stapleton
Sarah Vick
Andria Johnson
Virginia Stapleton- Ward 1 Councilor
Brandon Gould- Salem PD

AGENDA

1. Introduction/Approval of Minutes
 - a. **Motion to Approve:** Holly Schiefelbein
 - b. **2nd:** Leigh Gaynair
 - c. **Vote:** Passes unanimously
2. Reports/Updates
 - a. Salem Police Officer - 5 minutes
 - Will be attending NNO
 - b. City Councilor(s)
 - Dr Irvin Brown was introduced
 - Member of budget committee. Ward 5 rep and budget co-chair
 - New airline at Salem airport with Las Vegas and Burbank flights
 - Turner Road micro shelter for 18-24 year olds will have 38 beds and is 2 weeks or so from opening
 - Neighborhood traffic plan has been approved
 - Monday work session on communications between city and the residents
 - 224 units at Orchard Park apartments were saved from market rate and will remain affordable housing for 60 years
 - Budget was passed 7-2
 - Safe Salem public hearing this Monday; passed 5-4;



- Funding for police, fire, unhoused, SOS team and 2 new park rangers
- .0814% payroll tax
- Minimum wage workers were except (was to be .0728% tax if they including)
- will sunset 2031 and then must go to voters;
- Averts 12% cut across the board
 - loss of bond rating, mow only parks, close library and center 50+, IT infrastructure making us vulnerable, close microshelters and navigation centers in the next 2 years, 300 unhoused people back on the streets
- Salem's state delegation got \$0 for the city and the session has closed
- County is not doing a lot on mental health, drug treatment, or mobile crisis response
- City is feeling the pressure of being government of last resort
- Always available via email, phone, or one on one meetings
- Discussion of how the state does not pay taxes (\$5m), hospital, schools, no-profits, and churches
- Discussion of measures 5 and 50
- Cannery discussions are still ongoing and next meeting will be end of August

3. Highland NA Board/Committee Chairs Updates

a. Quarterly Chairs Meeting Update (Ryan Erickson-Kulas)

- New staff
 - Scott Archer, Deputy City manager for Community Service (since May 2023). The Community Services Department brings together community-facing services including Neighborhood Associations, Parks and Recreation, Center 50+, Library, Homelessness programs, youth development, and public art.
 - Brian Martin, PE, is Salem's new Public Works Director. Brian has served in other Public Works leadership roles for about 17 years.
 - Joe Hutchinson is Salem's new Emergency Manager (since June 2023), attached to the Salem Fire Department.
 - Sarah Baldwin has joined Salem Housing Authority as their new public information officer (since June 2023).
- Salem's Customer Service Center opens Friday, June 30 at 10 am at Civic Center. This is a one-stop place to do your business with the City.
- Megan Rivera shared information about Marion Polk Food Share, the area's regional food bank with about 9 million pounds moving through its warehouse distribution center. She explained that Food Share also runs the Meals on Wheels Program, a Youth Farm at Chemeketa Community College, Farmshare RX, congregate meal sites, pantries, home delivery food boxes, and other programs with community partners.
 - Megan shared that, in March, our region saw the highest number of food pantry visits in Food Share history at 18,000 visits. The network of 45 public food pantries at local nonprofits and churches are as barrier free as possible – just asking name and zip code. More than 70% of last month's 16,000 visits are occurring in Salem. Pre-Pandemic, visits were about 10,000 each month.
- Neighbor to Neighbor Program. Jared Rogers shared information about the Neighbor 2 Neighbor Program which offers free mediation throughout Salem through its 70+ volunteers throughout Marion, Linn, and Benton counties. They offer mediation for almost everything between willing parties – except in divorce or court-ordered custody.



If interested, they offer training with apprenticeship that allows individuals to become full-fledged mediators, per Oregon statutes.

- Gretchen Bennett shared information about and Salem's efforts to bring City Code into compliance with recent statewide law changes about camping in public spaces. The new rules are fairly similar to current practice and our focus on outreach, information and referral as a first step. The new rules spell out required notice and retaining property; exclude camping from residential zones, parks, vision clearance areas, and in proximity to existing shelters; and require a 36-inch pathway for travel on sidewalks.
 - Navigation Center is now open in SESNA
 - Salem Housing Authority's Yaquina Hall is almost all leased up, some of the people moving in are coming from micro shelters.
 - September 25, the Navy will be here. They are also looking for volunteer opportunities during that fleet week. Watch for more!
 - Alice shared that Library hours were added in May. The Library of Things is up and running –and very popular – with 197 kinds of things being checked out. Summer reading programs is underway and provides incentives for readers of all ages to stay engaged in reading.
 - Jessica shared that 49 of the 52 units at Salem Housing Authority's Yaquina Hall are occupied. Sequoia Crossings' 60 units (54 1-bedroom; 6 2-bedroom) are expected to be on-line this winter. Next, SHA will be renovating two buildings – Englewood West and Southview Terrace – with a plan to add subsidies to the properties.
- b. Newsletter Update (Holly Schiefelbein and Ryan Erickson-Kulas)
- Newsletter was relaunched on 7/5 and our current subscriber list has approximately 40 individuals.
- c. July 22 Clean Up Event (Ryan Erickson-Kulas)
- Event has been coordinated with City of Salem.
 - Areas we will focus on this month are the railroad on Maple (near the pedestrian crossing) and the entrance to Highland Park;
- d. National Night Out (Andrea Madison)-
- Discussion of budget
 - Plan to provide water and lemonade; provide cups; stay away from food;
 - Discussion of outreach to restaurants for donations
 - Andrea has visited 20 businesses to date
 - Invited fire station and will invite ambulance
 - Plan is to have a potluck
 - Attendance goal is 30
 - Discuss of potential children games/activities
 - Holly Schiefelbein to add QR code to flyer
- e. General Board Updates
- Discussion for updating street mural.
 - Currently 8 cans of paint remaining which Ryan Erickson-Kulas and Holly Schiefelbein agreed to store;
 - Plan to have a fall event
 - We have HNA branded stickers!
 - Heritage pamphlet
 - 30 homes have been photographed
 - Looking for cloudy day for best photos

4. Neighborhood Concerns



- a. Sarah Vick- Marion Polk Food Share won't do soil tests on community garden; it is deficient in potassium and nitrogen;
 - b. Salem Sandwich Squad- Ryan Erickson-Kulas
 - This is our second year of providing delicious meals to our neighbors through Sandwich Squad on Saturdays at Marion Square Park (Commercial side).
 - We set up in the park just prior to 3pm - servers are hopefully there to help and then the first sandwich maker arrives with their deliciousness for our neighbors at 3pm. The dishes arrive every 15 minutes after that, with the last one at 4:45pm.
 - We offer sandwiches and hearty salads that volunteers sign up to provide. A food handler's card is required to make food for Sandwich Squad and also to volunteer to serve but if you don't have a food handler's card, you can still sign up for a server position and you can help with the table that offers period packs, hot weather aid and harm reduction.
 - Holly Schiefelbein and Ryan Erickson-Kulas are the point people for Sandwich Squad at Marion Square Park on Saturdays.
 - You can follow our Instagram page, @salemsandwichsquad for more information
 - c. Tracey White- Oak tree in front of house has been growing fast and damaging sidewalks; Talked to Tom Bradley at the city but Urban Forestry has not given a lot of information; Concerned for future damage to house/property
5. Land Use
6. **Motion to adjourn:** Ryan Erickson-Kulas
- a. **2nd:** Leigh Gaynair
 - b. **Vote:** Passes unanimously

*Next monthly meeting: August 17, 2023

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