

**Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association**  
**Minutes**  
**June 15, 2023**  
**Meeting held via zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 07:05 PM by co chairs Sally Cook and Alan Alexander.

Attendees were thanked for joining the meeting on this beautiful evening!

Minutes were approved as circulated.

**Officer Edmiston**

He reminded neighbors that National Night Out is coming Tuesday August 1st and they can register their parties on the city website.

With the nice weather lots of people are out late. Pedestrians should make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street and wear reflective clothes.

Drivers need to be aware and drive slowly in neighborhoods.

In response to a question about how to handle vandalism he said to call the non-emergency police number (503 588 6123). If a police officer is available, they will dispatch an officer to the scene. Take pictures of those committing the vandalism if possible and share with the police. They will do their best to identify the individuals and hold them accountable. (This question came out of a post on the app Nextdoor about picnic tables being dumped in the creek at Secor Park and at Liberty Elementary attempting to damage playground equipment) Threats to life or injury is a 911 call.

A neighbor asked about fentanyl use. Officer Edmiston reported that it has surpassed meth in use. It is very potent and they can tell when a bad batch is circulating because of the number of overdoses. It is coming up from Mexico.

Councilor Nordyke gave kudos to the police regarding a situation they were able to de-escalate with no one getting hurt.

**Councilor Nordyke**

She shared some CASA updates including the fun Superhero run this Saturday June 17th at Riverfront Park. She is seeking CASA volunteers from outside of Salem. She will be heading to Woodburn soon to recruit there. Councilor Gwyn asked about the number of CASA volunteers and the number of children in foster

care. There are 98 CASA volunteers. It is a commitment of 8 to 12 hours per month. There are over 200 children currently in foster care.

She shared that the payroll tax is currently under consideration. July 10th is the community's opportunity to give testimony on the proposed tax. ‘

She is hoping to collaborate with all the Councilors that represent the south Salem area for a TownHall in September.

The Navigation Center is now open.

Yaquina Hall has leased 41 out of 52 units. There are beds for people with high mental health needs. Arches Inn is open for homeless veterans and the homeless with acute health needs. The SOS team responds to visible homeless camping. If the homeless are asked to move, they must be given legal notice.

There is a city of Salem operations fee that will be added to your utility bill beginning July 1, 2023 and will increase again in January 2024 It will expand the SOS team that addresses unsheltered camping, increase the code enforcement team, increase the park ranger capacity, continue downtown parking security and increase HR, IT, legal and financial staff There is help for low income people and Councilors Nordye and Gwyn urged people to take advantage of it.

Link on the city website for information for the fee increase

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/household/water-utilities/utility-payments-and-your-utility-account/utility-rates-and-other-fees>

### Councilor Gwyn

She wanted to remind neighbors of movies and other activities at Riverfront Park. Make music day is June 21st. It was mentioned that there is music at Riverfront Park almost every weekend. City staff is developing relationships with the 4 top music promoters in Oregon to bring musical acts to the Rotary Amphitheater. There is a summer reading program for kids and adults at the library.

The city manager reports that commercial air service is expected to begin in Salem on October 1st.

She reported that the Truitt property located along the river north of downtown has an offer on it. It will be years before dirt will be moved.

There is talk of a grocery store coming to downtown which will be beneficial with all the new housing downtown.

Dollar General will be coming to the old TJMax location.

A neighbor asked about the potential for a casino in north Salem The casino needs federal approval. The city council has no say. She has not heard anything in a while about it.

Councilor Gwyn will check on the status of the Light on Liberty at Davis Road which was reported during past meetings was funded by systems development funds.

#### **Land Use Henry Neugass**

He reported that the property at Kurth & Browning is up for sale and is shovel ready with all permits in place.

He reported on the properties along Skyline that are in development. The first property has been granted some variances. Henry talked to the Pastor of the church bordering the property. He had no problem with the granted variances. The second property backs up to 8 houses along Waln Creek Ct. There was discussion about how the neighborhood association should proceed. The general consensus was that Henry should make contact with the neighbors about the project and how to object to any variances the developer would ask for about setback requirements on dwellings backing up to those houses. Henry is given permission to object to any setback variances the developer would seek regarding the dwellings that would back up to the homes on Waln Creek Ct

#### **Old Business**

##### **Neighborhood Association SWAG**

Linda Miller went over what we purchased with communication funds including 2 table top easels, oval logo stickers, pens, Saturn flyers (small frisbee type toy) plastic wrist bracelets If we can get a list of those in the neighborhood hosting National Night Out parties from Irma Coleman, we will deliver a small bag of SWAG

##### **Mural Project - Sally Cook**

A new, more colorful proposed mural was submitted by Leslie Venti Alan Alexander went over potential sites for the mural. He will work with Travel Salem to determine the best site. Sites mentioned were both entrances to Sunnyslope Park, Warren & Oakman, Secor Park - Stockton Street entrance Several spots near the Sunnyslope Community Gardens. Please send ideas to Alan.

##### **Shade Structure for playground equipment at Secor Park - Alan Alexander**

The shade structure for the playground equipment at Secor Park is fully funded and it will be ordered. Salem Parks Foundation had \$200 designated to the park and the city parks increased the grant by \$1,000

**Salem Parks Improvement Grants will open up again in October. Ideas are needed.**

**Annual Meeting**

**There is a proposal to have an open house on September 21st With potential sites being the covered area at Sunnyslope Park or Liberty Christian Church. Henry Neugass will check with the Morningside Neighborhood Association to find out how their open house went.**

**With no critical issues to deal with, our July meeting is cancelled.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Miller  
Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary**

**Those in Attendance:**

**Sally Cook**

**Alan & Judith Alexander**

**Bruce & Linda Miller**

**Officer Edmiston**

**Henry Neugass**

**Councilor Gwym**

**Councilor Nordyke**

**Gary's Salem Ipad**

**Jasmine**