



NESCA MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2023

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes:

Unfortunately, there were a few technical issues with ZOOM again this month, but NESCA Chair Mike Beringer was able to open the meeting at 7:00 PM. Thanks again to everyone who was able to join! A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 16th meeting; motion carried.

2. Guest Speaker: Chris Wolfe, City of Salem Code Enforcement Officer

Officer Wolfe reported that, due to a staffing shortage, the Unit's officers are covering multiple districts. One person was recently hired and there's a posting to hire another. Their hope is that the City's new budget might give the unit additional positions.

The only ongoing problem area in NESCA is at Madison and 32nd, which they monitor regularly. The home on Ladd Avenue that had been a problem has been rehabbed and is going to be a group home. The other long-term problem house on Market Street was sold and the new owner is finishing the construction.

3. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Erick Hernandez

Sgt. Hernandez will be SPD's representative at NESCA meetings going forward. He advised that there are two dedicated officers per shift for our area, plus himself as their supervisor. Eli Brody asked about crime in the Market Street area. According to the Sergeant, Market Street and Hawthorne Avenue continue to be hot spots for prostitution and drug activity, primarily due to the number of motels. SPD's Strategic Investigation Unit, along with the FBI, does an annual prostitution and trafficking sting, which reduces the crime for a while.

Sgt. Hernandez told us that there's street racing and they're using Hawthorne and the parking lot in the Northwest corner of the Willamette Town Center. Before the days with longer sunlight, they saw most of the activity between 10:00 PM and midnight. Now it's from midnight to 2:00 AM.

There are cars in the city parks making noise and there's drinking and vandalism.

Marilyn Moritz and Gary Pullman mentioned the cars racing down D Street. Mike Beringer reported cars racing on Center Street between Hawthorne and the State Hospital. Sgt. Hernandez said they'd try to do some speed traps and/or put up a speed reader board. The latter often slows traffic down. He did agree that, since the end of the COVID pandemic, people seem to feel the need to speed everywhere.

We thanked the Sergeant for coming and said we looked forward to seeing him at future meetings.

4. City Council Reports:

No Councilors were able to attend this evening's meeting.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Land Use	<i>Ian Johnson</i>	No Report
b. Transportation:	<i>[Chair position open]</i>	No report

- Mai Vang was asked if she was interested in becoming the chair of this committee. She said she would. A vote was taken by the attending board members and Ms.Vang is now NESCA's Transportation Committee Chair! We're very grateful to have her!
- c. Parks *Eli Brody*
- He reported that the parks he visited are looking good. He also encouraged people to visit the areas in Geer Park where the bike ramp and skateboard areas are because the bird songs are amazing!
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli* No report
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
- Gary said he's been helping at both Englewood and Bush's Pasture Parks.
- f. North Campus Ian Johnson No Report

6. Other Business: Old Business

- Gary Pullman reminded everyone that tomorrow (Wednesday 6/21/23) is Make Music Day.
- Eli Brody said that the Park'n'Ride lot on Hawthorne Avenue has been kept clean and looks good. Eli also reminded everyone about NESCA's litter patrol scheduled for the upcoming Saturday, June 24, 2023.

6. Other Business: New Business

- Board member Stacey Vieyra-Braendle was asked if she'd be willing to take over NESCA's Facebook page and keep it updated. She agreed to take that on for us! Thank you, Stacey!

7. Discussion/Questions/Comments

There being no further business, Mike thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on July 18th beginning at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The link will also be available on the city website. Next month's guest will be State Representative Tom Andersen.

Submitted by: Marilyn Mortiz
NESCA Vice Chair

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Marilyn Moritz*, Gary Pullman*, Eli Brody*, Stacey Vieyra-Braendle*, Chris Wolfe, City of Salem Code Enforcement Officer, Sgt. Erick Hernandez Salem Police Department

*NESCA Board Members

- **Other Website Information:**

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-concerns-about-homeslessness.aspx>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
 - [503-371-4262 Graffiti Response team](https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx)
- The link for the crime statistics: www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats