



NESCA MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2023

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

NESCA Chair Mike Beringer opened the meeting at 7 PM. As he was not feeling well, this evening's meeting was Chaired by Vice Chair Marilyn Moritz. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 21st meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Erick Hernandez

- I-5 shooting involving an Oregon State Trooper: An armed suspect was seen brandishing a gun and appeared to be attempting to hijack vehicles, specifically a semi that had stopped. The suspect ran from the trooper and, while running, turned and appeared to fire a weapon. The trooper was hit with something but had no injuries and he returned fire. The suspect was subsequently shot and killed. [A grand jury has ruled that the shooting was justified.]
- Shooting at Hawthorne and Center Street NE: Councilor Nishioka read the media report about the event as Sgt. Hernandez did not have information. It occurred at 5:15 pm on Monday, 4/10. Information available was a bit vague other than a car had pulled over to talk with a young man who was walking, when he pulled out a gun and began firing, and then ran into a nearby apartment complex. The suspect, a 16-year-old juvenile, was subsequently arrested. Two hours later an adult male went to the hospital with wounds from this incident. The media report asks that anyone who may have witnessed the incident to call Salem PD.
- There was also a shooting in South Salem on Browning on the same day as the I-5 event.
- Flash Alert Page for breaking police activity:
 - flashalert.net/news.html/

3. City Councilors' Report:

Linda Nishioka:

- Yaquina Hall: Grand opening was held, residents to begin moving in approximately May 1. Yaquina Hall will provide permanent supportive housing for 52 individuals, 20 of the units being reserved for those suffering with serious mental illness.
- Arches Lodge, a turn-key project with Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, opened at the former Capital Inn at 1875 Fisher Road NE. There are 74 apartments, mostly reserved for Veterans and those who are medically fragile homeless.
- Navigation Center (on 22nd, south of Mission), with space available for 75 residents. This is NOT a drop-in center. It is also being managed by Arches. It is a "low barrier" shelter, which means that those who come do not need to be substance free; they can have pets; and they can stay with their partners. There are spaces where those who are not substance free can rest until they are better able to participate in the helpful programs that are offered. There are also services to help them train for, and look for, jobs. There will be a lot of opportunities provided with comprehensive wrap-around services.
- The Salem Outreach and Livability Services (SOS) team has been working to assist property owners on Fisher Road, on Hawthorne near the old Costco, the Edgewater pathway in West Salem, Marion Square, and the

Claggett Creek natural area. SOS does direct outreach to those living unsheltered in these areas, assists property owners with those who are trespassing, and picks up garbage where it is easily accessed.

- There has been an uptick in graffiti in the SCAN neighborhood. Following is information provided to Linda on how to report graffiti:
 - *Should a neighbor reach out to you, please encourage them to report the incident by calling 503-371-4264 or sending an email to graffiti@cityofsalem.net. Reporting via email provides a convenient way to also attach images of the damage. Additional information, such as graffiti removal techniques, is available on our webpage, www.cityofsalem.net/graffiti.*
 -
- City Budget & Revenue
 - **1. Budget**
 - Budgeting will be discussed over the next four weeks.
 - Following Budgeting, there will be a review of the revenue available.
 - Discuss cuts to the budget
 - Discuss possible ways to raise revenue.
 - The City has been getting along OK for quite awhile, but limping. Considering we have had a lot of growth, we will need to raise revenue in order to continue to provide services. Analogy provided: currently the City is a skeleton, there is nothing to cut unless we amputate.
 - **2. Revenue**
 - If there are no changes in revenue, there will be an approximate 10% cut to services.
 - Cut back in safety (police, fire) and possibly reducing hours at the library (or even closing the library) are possibilities of service cuts if new revenue sources are not determined.
 - Two options for potential revenue that will be discussed are:
 - Operations Fee (on water bill)
 - \$8.43 currently. Looking to add \$5.50 (\$4.40 for apartments). For businesses, another \$26.00 to the \$23.00 they are already paying.
 - There have been comments about the operations fee being disproportionate for those large businesses who are using more water compared to the small businesses in the community. There needs to be a more equitable way to classify what the rate should be for different sized buildings.
 - Employee Payroll Tax
 - Currently there are 69,000 employees working in Salem who do not live here but utilize city's services. This payroll tax would tax anyone who works in Salem.
 - There are different tiered amounts, each related to what services would be supported.
 - .49%
 - .56%
 - .66%

Virginia Stapleton:

- Additional information on the Navigation Center:
 - While there are 75 beds, they will not be taking in 75 of the most challenging people who are out on the streets. There will be a wide variety of needs that will be met at the Navigation Center. The city does not want to have all of the most challenging cases all in one location to start it off.
 - Services
 - On-site clinic
 - Case Management
 - Communal living (not like the unlike the micro shelters)
- Revenue: There is another piece to this and that is how the Council accomplishes the increases:
 - If operations fee, the Council can approve the increase.
 - If Employee Payroll tax, it can be a vote by voters in November OR approved by City Council.
 - There are pros and cons to both approaches.

Regarding the tiers, it is important to at least maintain the services we have in place.

- .49%; none of the housing services would be funded; micro shelters would be closing next June, and the recently opened Navigation Center would be closing in June 2025.
 - .56%; will sustain some services, but there will be a need to use grants to maintain the housing services.
 - .66%, will fully fund current services. There will be no new micro shelters, but we could maintain those currently in place. This would also provide for 12 new police officers and 11-12 new firefighters. Current emergency response time in Salem is upwards of 12 minutes, compared to the standard nationwide response time of 5 minutes. The areas of town hardest hit with these slow response times are southeast and northeast Salem, which brings up equity issues as well.
- The Council is struggling with how to proceed. Trying to persuade a handful of voters, as not too many people vote in special elections, to agree to this new idea of a payroll tax shortly after the increased services fee when people are already upset could be a difficult sell.

Julie Hoy: Julie joined the meeting from Portland but was not in a situation where she could use the video. She hopes to join us fully next month. She did mention that she did an Salem Police Department ride-along recently and it was very enlightening at how many calls the officers take in any given shift and how difficult their job is. She also reiterated Linda and Virginia's comments about the Budget/Revenue, that it is a very difficult subject.

4. Guest Speaker: Mark Green, Make Music Day – Salem

Seven or eight years ago, Mark was looking for an event to bring to Salem when he learned about "Make Music Day." Make Music Day has been a worldwide event for 41 years, starting in France. The idea is that on the first full day of summer, people need to get outside, enjoy the weather, play, and enjoy music. The event happens every year on the first day of summer. There are only three simple rules:

- It is held every year on June 21st.
- It is a free event where everyone can participate.
- It is outside.

In 2016, Salem organizers started trying to figure out how to make this event happen. It has grown to the point that last year Salem had 200 bands participating. It is always on June 21st, regardless of what day of the week that is. This year it is on a Wednesday, beginning around 10 AM, lasting until about 10 PM. They currently have 20 venues signed (and hoping for more) and about 60 performers. The organizers secure all required permits. It is basically a "do it yourself" event and can be anything each group wants, as long as there is music. The organizers would like to see the event spread out from downtown into parks across the city. Salem has done a good job with this program, even making it work during Covid. Salem has actually been recognized by the Make Music non-profit for our efforts with our great participation in a medium-sized town with very little budget. CCTV broadcasts the event. This event is open to everyone and any type of musical style, with the goal to be diverse in every other possible way.

Question:

If the NESCA neighborhood were to offer one of our parks for the event, would Make Music Day organizers provide the performers?

- They can help with performers and other needs to get set up. Once signed up to host in a park, they would help get everything signed up with the city.
- They are always looking for schools, churches, and individuals to participate in the day's program.
- They do other events, such as giving away harmonicas to kids, giving some lessons, ukelele jams, bucket drums, etc.
- Each venue can determine the hours of their event. Hours do not have to be from 10AM to 10PM.

Marilyn has taken flyers about this event to The Jory and will also take them to Yaquina Hall once it is officially opened in May.

For more information: www.makemusicsalem.org

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Land Use *Ian Johnson* No report
- b. Transportation: *[Chair position open]* No report
Mike mentioned that the chair position for transportation is currently open.
- c. Parks *Eli Brody*
April 22nd is the Street Clean on Hawthorne from Sunnyview to Center Street. Everyone is to meet at the north end of the Park & Ride next to the Holiday Inn at 8:30AM. All equipment is provided. The group usually works for about 90 minutes.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
They had their first soccer game on Sunday vs Yoshikai, played at the North Salem High School.
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman* No report
- f. North Campus No report

6. Other Business:

- Pamela Short, Salem Softball League.
 - As games are played on Wednesdays, there might be a conflict with the Make Music Day at the D Street Field Park. Pam will be having a captains' meeting tomorrow and will mention the Make Music Day and suggest that they might schedule a "light" day, only using two fields, leaving the rest of the park open. Pam thought the music day sounded like a lot of fun and will be sure to mention it to people she knows. Pam asked to be on next month's Agenda to talk more about the league.
- It was announced that board member Ken Gettys is planning to move soon and will no longer be in the NESCA neighborhood.
- Mai Vang. Welcome Mai to the NESCA neighborhood!
 - Mike suggested to Mai that because she is concerned about traffic and pedestrians, she might enjoy chairing the Transportation committee.
 - As Mai mentioned an interest in gardening, Marilyn let her know about the Master Gardener's program with the availability of fresh vegetables at the Fresh Start Market on Center Street.
- Marilyn also mentioned that NESCA has a need for someone to take over responsibility for maintaining the Facebook page. We had hoped to ask Ken Gettys to do this since he has the expertise. However, with his moving, that may not be a possibility.
- Marilyn mentioned that she has been in contact with some of the new neighbors in the houses next to The Jory and several are from Ukraine. She also learned that the owner of the development company (Comfort Homes) is also Ukraine. We are pleased to welcome our new neighbors not just to our neighborhood, but to Salem and to America.
- Eli read his recent letter to the board regarding his feeling about the need to begin having in-person meetings again and that NESCA should make the change to do so immediately. As there are conflicting opinions on this topic, Lynn Cardiff suggested that Mike needs to call a board meeting to discuss this further. Mike commented that we naturally want to see NESCA grow and prosper so it is important that everyone has the opportunity to express an opinion on this topic. No decision will be made without full consideration of the pros and cons of ZOOM vs In-Person meetings.
- Gary asked if it is possible to post flyers at The Jory. Marilyn directed him to take his materials to the office. They have several locations around the complex where they put flyers.
- Ken Getty's suggested changes to the Agenda order of business following Committee reports:
 - Add Old Business
 - Add New Business
 - Add Open Forum for residents to make comments, suggestions, or ask questions.
 - No action taken at this time. To be discussed further.
- Virginia discussed the recent announcement about the cannery buildings on Front Street which will be torn down and redeveloped into multifamily housing, retail, and restaurants. The area will be pedestrian and bike friendly. The whole area is a bit of a mess, with streets and train tracks going down the middle

of the area. Virginia will be having a meeting regarding the Front Street redevelopment, so hopefully can bring more information to our next meeting.

There being no further business, Marilyn thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on May 16 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 guests will be Dennie Brooks, Oregon State Hospital Museum President, and Pamela Short, Salem Softball League.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Marilyn Moritz*, Teri Lupoli*, Lynn Cardiff*, Gary Pullman*, Eli Brody*, Linda Nishioka Salem City Council, Virginia Stapleton Salem City Council, Julie Hoy Salem City Council, Erik Hernandez Salem PD, Mark Green Make Music Day, Pamela Short, State Softball League, Mai Vang, Jim Lupoli

*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