

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association
Minutes
August 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by co chairs Sally Cook and Alan Alexander. Issues with zoom prevented the meeting from starting on time.

Attendees were welcomed.

Approval of minutes was postponed because they were not available on the city website.

Mayor Hoy

He shared his background.

He welcomed neighbors' questions which focused on the payroll tax which will appear on the November ballot costing the city \$220,000 . The city is required to have a balanced budget. Since 2009, 26,000 residents have been added to our city. Staffing levels have remained at 2009 levels. The city faces a 19 million dollar deficit if there is no payroll tax. Cuts to services will be made. Growth does not pay for the additional services needed The payroll tax would be .819%. Minimum wage workers would not pay the payroll tax. Anyone who works remotely for a company/agency located in Salem and lives outside of Salem will not pay the tax. People receiving pensions will not pay the payroll tax. Anyone who commutes into Salem to work will pay the payroll tax. The 3 largest employers - Salem Health, Salem/Keizer School District and the State of Oregon do not pay property taxes The payroll tax would open a new fire station, expand community policing and fund homeless services which is making a difference.

Neighbors asked if the city can find other partners like the county and state to help fund homeless services. The county is responsible for mental health services The county says they are working on a mental health mobile crisis unit.

The Mayor sees the library providing valuable services to the community with activities for children, teens and adults as well as resources.

Oregon has a housing crisis. Salem has a 1% vacancy rate. The city is incentivizing affordable housing units

A neighbor asked about how many staff are involved with communicating with the community. The Mayor said there are 4. Getting information out to the public is a challenge. We have no television station that focuses on Salem news.

Another neighbor asked about prosecuting criminals once the police arrest them. She mentioned the 4 juveniles that were identified turning off solar at Temple Beth Shalom. The Temple is pressing charges. The Mayor indicated that both the city and the district attorney's office have enough prosecutors but there are inadequate consequences. The county jail only has room for violent offenders and no money or plans for a new jail. He is not sure about the juvenile system.

The Mayor welcomes your emails choy@cityofsalem.net

Councilor Nordyke:

She shared a powerpoint presentation which included information about the CASA school supply drive and the Dutch Bros fundraiser on September 15th where \$1 for each drink sold will go to CASA of Marion County

She attended the ribbon cutting for the YMCA new Veterans housing project that will serve homeless veterans. There are 34 one and two bedroom units and is named for Peter Courtney who is not a veteran but was instrumental in securing funding for the building. Those housed in the building will have free access to the YMCA facilities. Foster kids also have free access to the YMCA

She and Councilor Gwyn voted against the payroll tax. You are welcome to email them and ask their reasons for voting against it.

She listed places and agencies working on the homeless crisis. Most are seeking a variety of funding sources.

The council voted to approve a 436 unit multi family development in West salem

The Navigation center has 40 beds filled out of 60 They expect to be full by September. 15 beds are diversion beds meant for short term stays,

She went over the Salem Heights street realignment plan which is not funded.

She wants to help with the painting of our street mural.

The funding request which would cost the city \$5,000 for a south Salem TownHall that would involve all the city councilors representing the South Salem area was voted down by city council. She and Councilor Gwyn would like to organize a TownHall without city support, possibly using some of the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association communication funds. She will present a proposal to the board at another time.

Councilor Gwyn shared about her volunteer experiences at ARCHES and the Navigation Center.

A neighbor asked about the city's 4th of July Celebration Neither councilors attended or had any information. Alan Alexander said he drove by intime to see the fireworks and city staff said the venue was great with no major issues and they hope to do it again next year

Land Use - Henry Neugas

The property at Kurth & Browning is in the process of being sold.

Old Business

Alan Alexander reported that he was contacted by a neighbor regarding the setting off of illegal fireworks. They had some sparks land on their roof. Alan indicated that unfortunately illegal fireworks are set off several times during the year and mentioned the challenges the city faces in dealing with this issue including the resources to police illegal fireworks or enforce a fireworks ban.

Street Mural Project

Alan has contacted Travel Salem and all the suggested sites meet their criteria. When he returns from travel, he will meet in person with someone to view the sites and select the best one.

Back to School Nights - Linda Miller

Schirle Elementary - Tuesday, September 5th 4:00 - 5:30 Thanks to Karen Delsman and Henry Neugass who will staff the table

Liberty Elementary 4:30 - 5:30 Bruce and Linda Miller will staff the table

Linda will distribute the Neighborhood Association SWAG. She has separated it into 4 bags with the potential to be at Crossler Middle School who has not responded to our request and/or a Trunk o Treat. Karen Delsman volunteered for Crossler Middle if we get permission

It was agreed that SWAG be distributed at the discretion of those representing the neighborhood association

Sally Cook discussed the issues setting up zoom meetings with the account we have through the city. She originally set up one recurring number for all the meetings. All agreed zoom is a great back up , but neighbors are looking forward to in person meetings.

Salem Parks Improvement Grant

It was suggested by a neighbor that in the upcoming cycle, the neighborhood association seek a grant for gaga ball pits for both Secor and Sunnyslope Parks Alan will check with the parks department to see if that is feasible.

Our September 21st meeting will be held via zoom.

We will seek to have our October 19th meeting in person at Schirle Elementary. This will be our annual meeting. Linda will contact Irma Coleman, city of Salem Neighborhood Service to make the arrangements.

Linda will check with Irmq Coleman regarding what communications funds are available since Councilor Nordyke asked about using some to host a town hall

The board will listen to Councilor Nordyke's proposal. Concerns were expressed that she addresses issues Sunnyslope is concerned about including safety on Browning, Davis, Liberty at Davis Road and Liberty at Mildred

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in attendance:

Alan & Judith Alexander

Sally Cook

Bruce & Linda Miller

Henry Neugass

Mayor Hoy

Councilor Nordyke

Councilor Gwyn

Bryan

Jeanne

Becky Hastings Wade